Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-182
Tuesday
20 September 1994

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-182 *20 September 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Syria Demands Settlement Evacuation During 1st Stage

TA1909111894 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Sep 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Syria is demanding that Israel increase the area included in the first withdrawal stage on the Golan Heights and that the withdrawal include at least one Jewish settlement. Syria also demands Israel withdraw as far back as the positions it held in 1967, not merely to the international border along Lake Tiberias.

In contacts held in Washington between ambassadors Rabinovich and al-Mu'allim, the Syrians said they demand an Israeli settlement be evacuated as an Israeli "declaration of intent," in addition to the evacuation of the Druze villages—including Majdal Shams—which Israel has already suggested giving up.

Israeli sources assess the Syrian demand as a positive signal which hints at a possible Syrian agreement to Israel's demand that immediately upon the completion of the first stage of withdrawal, which Rabin has defined as "minimal," the two countries introduce normalization, whether partial or complete. Syria is concerned lest it appears as giving up too much in exchange for too small an area on the Golan Heights.

Last weekend there were reports, apparently emanating from right- wing circles, that Syria is demanding Israel evacuate Kibbutz Elrom, which is located near the Druze villages on the Golan Heights. This report was denied by Jerusalem sources, but now it appears there was a kernel of truth to it.

Iraqi, Israeli Envoys Deny Secret Rabat Talks

JN1909062594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Israel and Iraq have denied reports published yesterday in THE SUNDAY TIMES about secret meetings between representatives of both countries in Morocco last month. THE SUNDAY TIMES quoted British Intelligence as saying that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer met in Rabat last month in an attempt to prepare the text of a peace treaty.

The Israeli denial was announced by a spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry while the Iraqi denial was announced by the press attache at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman.

Mideast Economic Cooperation Committee Ends Meetings

NC1909154694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] The two-day meetings of the committee in charge of following up Middle East economic cooperation projects stemming from the multilateral negotiations ended in Cairo today. Representatives of Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, the EU, the United States, Japan, and Canada took part in the meetings.

Ambassador Ra'uf Mus'ad, assistant foreign minister for economic relations and committee chairman, said that the conferees discussed the means to bolster economic relations among Middle East countries. He noted that it has been agreed to form four committees on infrastructure, trade, finance, and tourism.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Council Issues Resolution on Lockerbie

LD1609142794 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The Arab League council has reiterated its stance of complete solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting the unjust sanctions imposed upon it by the Western states through the so-called Security Council. [passage omitted]

Here is the text of the Arab League resolution: The council of the Arab League, referring to its previous resolutions, particularly Resolution 373 of the 101st session regarding the unjust sanctions and threats to which the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is being subjected by the United States of America, England, and France, which was supported by the OAU, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Nonaligned Movement; recalling the provisions of Articles 33 and 52 of the UN Charter on the peaceful resolution of conflicts by means of mediation and judicial settlement; expressing its deep concern over the human and material damage which has affected the Libyan Arab people and the neighboring states as a result of the unjust sanctions; expressing its appreciation for the efforts of the seven-man committee and the [Arab League] secretary-general to find a peaceful solution to the crisis, resolves:

First: To reaffirm its previous resolution regarding its solidarity with the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and to hail its cooperation in reaching a peaceful solution to the crisis within the framework of Libyan sovereignty and international law.

Second: To call on the three Western states to respond to the international proposal contained in the Arab League council's Resolution 373 aimed at finding a peaceful settlement to the crisis and avoiding any escalation in the situation likely to increase tension in the region.

Third: To call on the concerned seven-man Arab committee for following up the crisis to intensify its efforts and contacts with the parties involved with the aim of urging the Security Council to study again the new proposals contained in the Arab League council's resolution and to accept it as a basis for solving the crisis.

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Fourth: To assign the secretary general to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to present a report on it to the council at its next session.

Palestinian Affairs

Sha'th Discusses Peace, Hamas, Resettlement

NC1909093794 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
13 Sep 94 p 11

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, "minister of planning and international relations" in the Palestinian National Authority, by Sami Kulayb in Paris; date not given]

[Text] [Kulayb] Don't you think that 'Arafat's sole dominance of the solution and negotiations has weakened the position of the Palestinian negotiator? Would it not have been better to continue coordination with other Arab states?

[Sha'th] The Palestinian issue has always followed a solitary course. In other words, all other parties used the Palestinian cause for their benefit, leaving the Palestinians alone, lagging behind.

[Kulayb] The opposite is just as true; the Palestinian revolution benefited from some Arab states at the expense of these states and the expense of the cause itself.

[Sha'th] I don't think so.

[Kulayb] Lebanon is the best example.

[Sha'th] Lebanon has indeed stood by the Palestinian cause with all its resources and sacrificed thousands of martyrs for the sake of the Palestinian people. But we should not forget the other people who have stood by the Palestinians and sacrificed for their cause. But all the settlements in the region have been at the expense of the Palestinian people since 1973, 1982, through to Madrid.

[Kulayb] What do you mean by the 1982 settlement? Was it not enough that Israel devastated Lebanon?

[Sha'th] That settlement provided for the expulsion of the Palestinian people.

[Kulayb] We did not understand what you meant by the price of Madrid. What did the Palestinians lose in Madrid?

[Sha'th] The PLO was the last Arab party to sign on going to Madrid.

[Kulayb] Was it because it did not want to do that, or because Israel had not recognized it?

[Sha'th] This is what I am telling you. Everyone else wanted to benefit from Madrid at the expense of the Palestinians. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' openly said to us in Damascus: "Tend to your own problems. We cannot wait for you." That is why we say that the Madrid conference could have done away with the PLO. Arabs used to receive me secretly, although I was leading the Palestinian delegation. They dared introduce me to Washington.

Look at Jordan; until this moment they do not accept the idea that the Palestinian people now have their own representative; they now have a land and a state.

[Kulayb] I take it that you at the PLO are happy that the Madrid summit has been torpedoed.

[Sha'th] Madrid was a grave injustice to the Palestinian people. We accepted it because we had to, because all Arab states had beaten us into signing. All the Washington negotiations have not once marked an Israeli withdrawal. We succeeded in wrestling that in Oslo and later on. Anyway, and without going into all the details, the line the PLO has opted to pursue enabled it to return to the inside.

[Kulayb] But the return restricted the Palestinian move and the PLO has become captive to Israeli rule.

[Sha'th] Let them apply pressure as much as they want. All previous pressure to prevent us from returning has been futile and we have managed to return thousands of Palestinians and released many people.

[Kulayb] On the one hand you help release the Palestinians and on the other you arrest Hamas movement activists.

[Sha'th] Hamas is another issue and needs a separate question.

[Kulayb] We will discuss that afterward. Until the Oslo Accord was signed, the situation was semi-acceptable, but the Cairo Accord lowered the ceiling of the Palestinian negotiations.

[Sha'th] You have not read the Cairo Accord.

[Kulayb] If I had not read it I would not ask you.

[Sha'th] I read the Oslo Accord carefully and compared it with the Cairo Accord, whose ceiling is higher than that of the Oslo deal. Perhaps what mars the Cairo Accord is the Oslo agreement, in which Jerusalem, the settlements, refugees, and foreign security and relations were excluded but the Cairo Accord laid the bases for all these issues, including Jerusalem. This is in addition to the Palestinians' right to passports, postal service, currency, and regional waters and our right to arrest and try the Israelis and apply civilian law to them.

[Kulayb] But all this must have Israel's approval. They have appointed an Israeli controller over each one of your rights.

[Sha'th] Yet all that is better that the previous situation and I am willing to discuss every article of the Cairo Accord.

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[Kulayb] Don't you think that the concern to return at any cost made you lose negotiating chips? Wouldn't it have been better if you had discussed each issue more calmly?

[Sha'th] I believe this is a problem that will face any negotiator in any negotiations. You either have to prolong the time, in waiting for more suitable opportunities, or choose to improve the circumstances from the word go.

[Kulayb] Why have your relations with Jordan come to the tension we see today?

[Sha'th] We have no ambitions in any Arab country and all we hope for is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza with Jerusalem as its capital and with the repatriation of the refugees. We have no dreams about Jordan or any other country; we seek a balanced and equal relationship with Jordan based on respect of rights and duties, a close relationship reflecting the true ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian people.

[Kulayb] What stands in the way?

[Sha'th] There is disagreement on the mechanism of handling the Palestinian issue.

[Kulayb] Disagreement on the mechanism or on the essence of relations?

[Sha'th] Actually, Jordan has not forsaken what it sees as its historical rights to Palestine but we believe that Jordan has other rights. It has a right to Jerusalem just as any Lebanese, Moroccan, or a Pakistani, has but this should not be understood as a dispute on sovereignty over Jerusalem. The sovereignty over Jerusalem is now disputed with the Israeli occupation government and when we retrieve it, this sovereignty will be for the Palestinian people who have to protect the holy places of all Arabs and non-Arabs. Our goal is unity with Jordan.

[Kulayb] The only accomplishment that seems to any observer of the domestic situation in the self-rule area is the suppression of Hamas. Why has there not been any solution or agreement with it as yet and, in the Palestinian authorities' view, should the military resistance stop?

[Sha'th] First of all, it is we who decide how, when, and from where the resistance should be. Anyone who wants to resist can do that, as Jerusalem, the Golan, the West Bank, and south Lebanon are occupied. But as for any land not under occupation disregarding its area, the authorities there should organize the means of resistance. For example, isn't this the case in Lebanon, Syria, or Egypt [as published]? When the Palestinian authorities have a liberated land, why shouldn't these authorities have the right to protect it so that Gaza and Jericho won't be the last territories? Is it conceivable that this small area should have three authorities?

[Kulayb] Don't you think that the failure so far to obtain all the promised economic aid from donor nations and your authorities' ban on some newspapers and the harassment of Hamas will eventually lead to a potential victory of Hamas in the forthcoming elections should they take place?

[Sha'th] Hamas may end up at the helm of power because anyone who believes in democracy and free elections should expect any possibilities.

[Kulayb] Will Israel accept that? And have you discussed this issue with it?

[Sha'th] If Hamas attains power it must deal with Israel through that agreement. If it annuls it Hamas alone must bear the consequences. Besides, a Hamas wing is already in Israel and is dealing with it in the different fields. If Hamas complies with the agreement Israel cannot object, just as we cannot object if Likud reaches power.

[Kulayb] But some say that the only guarantee for keeping the agreement valid is for Rabin and Peres to stay in power.

[Sha'th] The Labor Party and its allies undoubtedly were a factor that helped reach an agreement. Their stay in power will help us keep on the course of this agreement to score new points. But we will continue to respect our agreements with this government. Even if this government is replaced with one of demons it will be in Israel's interest, as well as ours, to keep up the peaceful process.

[Kulayb] If we put the priorities of Israeli interests in their proper order we will find that economy comes first followed by security then politics. Do you share that view?

[Sha'th] But what is Israel's economic interest with the Palestinians?

[Kulayb] It can use them as a bridge to other Arab states.

[Sha'th] This is a common mistake. Israel is not pursuing Arab markets; it seeks direct economic relations with Arabs. This is what concerns Israel, because it knows about the future of relations with the Arabs and it knows that it will not compete with other big states in the Middle East.

[Kulayb] Are the army and politicians in Israel pursuing the same line in the peace process?

[Sha'th] If all Israel agrees on peace with Jordan because it costs them nothing they, in contrast, disagree on peace with Syria and the Palestinians. They all agreed on peace with Egypt, because Egypt and Syria do constitute a threat to the Hebrew state. Let us be clear. Despite past criticism, the Syrian policy relies on a sound strategy in dealing with Israel. This strategy is characterized by a lot of smartness. I wish our relations with Syria were better and had more balance and equality. The Israelis might

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disagree. But their central condition is to achieve security. As for us, our condition is to continue the Israeli withdrawal and return. If either condition fails, peace will not survive.

[Kulayb] Returning to Lebanon: You hear about what is happening and what is being said about housing or settling the Palestinians. Have there been contacts between you and the Lebanese authorities on that issue?

[Sha'th] You know that our agreement with Israel distinguishes between different types of refugees and return. There is a kind of absolute return and a phased return. Some 50,000 Palestinians have returned with the police force. There is also a choice. But when it comes to final negotiations everyone will have an absolute right to return. The problem on which we disagree is the right to return for Palestinians from the territories Israel occupied in 1948. This is what we should negotiate in the final solution.

The Palestinian who emigrated to Lebanon has three options: Return to Nablus or any other place, to stay in Lebanon as a Palestinian carrying a passport and who is entitled to go to Palestine, or to seek Lebanese nationality and stay as a settler in Lebanon.

Of course the third choice depends not only on the person himself, but on the Lebanese authorities as well. Some Palestinians believe that it is better for them to stay in Lebanon after they have lived there for over 50 years. If Lebanon accepts this I see no problem. After all, there are Armenians, Kurds, Syriacs, and 'Alawites. If a Lebanese does not find it odd that he himself can obtain American nationality in the United States, why can't a Palestinian get Lebanese nationality after 50 years?

[Kulayb] Were there contacts with the Lebanese authorities on this?

[Sha'th] I have no information on that. But the issue of settlement has not been discussed at any of the Palestinian authority's meetings. Bear with us a little my brother. I do not understand why they create havoc whenever they want to improve the housing conditions for the Palestinians.

Hurani To Return to Gaza, Not To Join Authority

JN1609115494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Yahya al-Huju]

[Text] Amman—'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, will return to the Gaza Strip today via the Rafah crossing. Hurani has announced his rejection of the Oslo accord and boycotted the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee since the signing of the accord one year ago.

In a telephone interview with AL-DUSTUR, Hurani—who is currently in Cairo—said: My return to the homeland coincides with the anniversary of my deportation from my country. It is a continuous and pressing desire to return home that is linked with the objective of liberation. This is a right for me and for every Palestinian citizen. We all have the right to return, even under Israeli occupation.

Hurani noted that his return will not change his stand against the Oslo accord. He does not intend to become involved in any authority or institution. Hurani said the main objective is to return because this is a sacred right, and because it is a dear occasion to meet with the sons of the Palestinian Arab people in their homeland and to get acquainted—from a close distance—with the political, social, economic, and cultural situation. This, he added, will enable him to make a direct assessment of the situation and define his future steps regarding his continuation of public work.

Says PLO Executive Near 'Collapse'

TA1609165094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in the Gaza Strip today. Upon his arrival he said that the PLO Executive Committee is on the brink of collapse and that he will not take part in the Palestinian Authority.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem points out that Hurani is one of the opponents of the Oslo accord and that following the signing of the Washington agreement a year ago he announced his resignation from the PLO Executive Committee. However, his resignation is not valid because it requires the approval of the Palestine National Council which has not convened in a long time.

Paper Notes Return of Prominent Figures

JN2009103794 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 4

[Text] Umm-al-Lutf, wife of Fatah Central Committee Secretary Faruq Qaddumi, has arrived in Amman on her way back to the occupied territories. She is expected to arrive there tomorrow, Tuesday [20 September]. Umm-al-Lutf's preparations to return raised suspicions and questions about her husband's stand and whether he still opposes the Oslo accord and its results.

In another development, the return of Nasif 'Awwad, secretary of the pro-Iraq Arab Liberation Front [ALF], last Friday [16 September] also surprised observers. This is because the ALF has adopted a stand for the last several years opposing a settlement in general, and opposing the Oslo accord in particular.

AL-MAJD learned that the ALF has changed its opposition strategy. It recently decided to return as many of its elements and cadres to the occupied territories as possible and to adopt an opposition policy from inside rather than outside the occupied territories. Only God knows?

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On the same level, Fatah Central Committee member Abu-Mahir Ghunaym [Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym], who refuses to return, has decided to transfer the archives of the Mobilization and Organization Department, of which he is in charge, from Tunis to Gaza. Two of his assistants; namely, Jamal Muhaysin and 'Uthman Abu-Gharbiyah, decided to open an office affiliated with this department in Gaza after their return last Friday [16 September].

Al-Rujub Criticizes Israeli Arrests, 'Provocation'

JN1709092894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Interview with Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Preventive Security Department in Jericho, by correspondent Ahmad Rafiq 'Awad; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Awad] Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Preventive Security Department, the occupation authorities have closed the borders with the Palestinian National Authority in Jericho. What comments do you have about this measure?

[Al-Rujub] I believe this is part of the provocative measures the Israelis have carried out and which have taken a very serious turn over the past 72 hours. This is a blatant violation of the agreement signed between the PLO and Israel. The Israelis arrested four Jericho citizens 48 hours ago. They confiscated their identity cards and summoned them for interrogation. Of course, this is rejected and conflicts with the agreement, becasue they are within the limits of the PNA area of jurisdiction. This measure was protested to the Israelis, who retracted their stand and gave them back their identity cards. They repeated the same thing yesterday. They kidnapped two Jericho residents and took them to Ramallah. The two persons are from 'Aqabat Jabr. This has caused the citizens to react by demonstrating on Route No. 2.

['Awad] Col. Jibril, how will you respond to these measures. What steps will you adopt to stop these Israeli practices?

[Al-Rujub] I believe that all options are open to us. Of course, throughout last night, there were contacts. Meetings were held between the field command in Jericho and the Israelis through the DCO [acronym in English, expansion not given]. Brigadier General Sa'di Naji and Colonel Khalil Hillis, Abu-al-Walid attended these meetings from our side. We have options that are ready, and I believe we can respond. However, I hope the Israelis will apologize for all the provocations and mistakes they committed, such as arresting people from Jericho, striking people at checkpoints, in addition to ongoing provocations which take place at these checkpoints at the Jericho entrances.

['Awad] Do you believe these recurrent Israeli measures are an attack against the Preventive Security Department, or an attack against a specific course?

[Al-Rujub] I believe this is blatant interference in our domestic affairs. I also believe that the closure of Jericho is an attempt to encite people against us. From this premise, I affirm that this is a programmed operation against the PNA. I believe that the police ministry and the Border Police are leading this campaign.

['Awad] Col. Jibril al-Rujub, thank you.

'Urayqat on International Forces' Task, Elections

JN1709174894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] In a statement to the Voice of Palestine this morning, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the [Palestinian] National Authority [PNA], said that the mission of the international forces, which will come to the PNA areas soon, is to render expertise to the Palestinian police in terms of supervision and execution. 'Urayqat denied that the international forces will have any mission related to supervising the progress of legislative elections to be held in December of this year. 'Urayqat said that the international forces will come to the PNA areas in accordance with Clause 13 of the Cairo accord signed by the PLO and Israel.

'Urayqat said that the international forces will be deployed in Gaza, Khan Yunus, Abasan, Rafah, Bayt Hanun, and Jericho, and added that these forces will wear their uniform, carry their light weapons, and use their own vehicles. He added that President Yasir 'Arafat will propose to the European Union states, Japan, Canada, the Scandinavian states, Egypt, and Jordan that they supervise the legislative elections under an international umbrella.

Islamic Jihad, Hamas Plan To Form Political Party

TA1609193694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Sep 94 p A3

[Report by correspondent in the territories Ori Nir]

[Text] The Islamic Jihad movement does not reject the initiative of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] elements to establish an Islamic political party in the territories which will participate in elections to various bodies, even if the elements do not participate in elections for a legislative council. This was said by Islamic Jihad sources in the West Bank.

'Abdallah al-Shami, spokesman of the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, two days ago said Hamas has not consulted with his organization's leadership when it called for the establishment of an Islamic party, but he did not at all reject the idea.

Al-Shami said Hamas and the Islamic Jihad must coordinate their positions according to the calls of the leaders of these organizations abroad, because the causes which brought about the separation between these two movements no longer exist. Al-Shami said a "joint plan" must

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be introduced, thus hinting that his movement supports an umbrella Islamic party which would be open to all factions of the Islamic movement.

Over the last few days several Hamas leaders in the West Bank have said that the establishment of a political Islamic party will be announced soon, and that this party will be open to all Palestinian Islamic factions and will start operating in the autonomy areas in Gaza and Jericho. The spokesmen publicly said the party will establish branches in all West Bank areas to be transferred to Palestinian rule. The spokesmen did not say whether the party will compete against other Palestinian groups in general elections in the territories (for a legislative council), or whether it will settle for municipal elections and elections for national Palestinian institutions. One of Hamas' leaders in the Gaza Strip recently said his organization will not participate in elections for a legislative council.

Sources close to Hamas leadership in the West Bank say the purpose of establishing an umbrella Islamic party is not to bypass the Hamas leadership's boycott of general elections, but it is possible that such a political body will in future adopt its own line which will not be entirely dependent on the doctrines of the two main Islamic organizations in the territories.

Dr. Hisham Ahmad, a Palestinian researcher who has recently published a book on Hamas' political strategy, says that "the main purpose of establishing the party is to increase the power basis of the Islamic movement and recruit as many supporters as possible in anticipation of a political confrontation."

New Islamic Political Party To Be Announced 'Soon'

JN1909212494 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 5

[Text] Two Islamic leaders in Nabulus have said that they will soon announce the establishment of the Islamic Political Party [al-Hizb al-Siyasi al-Islami] in the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Shaykh Jamal Mansur and Shaykh Jamal Salim added that preparations for the establishment of the party began more than a year ago, and that the occupation authorities' deportation of the Islamic movement's leaders to Marj al-Zuhur in southern Lebanon has played a role in ripening the concept of forming this party.

The two shaykhs explained that the Islamic party is an Islamic political front which is open to all the sons of the Palestinian people who are convinced of its ideology and abide by its policy and principles. They stressed that the party will deal with individuals, not groups or blocs, concerning the issue of membership, and that it will base its stands on Islamic shura principles regarding all developments and issues related to its internal policy.

Shaykh Mansur said that the Islamic movement has several alternatives to confront all developments, and that it has several modes of operation. He added that the Islamic movement has more than one choice, does not allow anyone to push it to the corner, takes the initiative and does not wait for anything to happen to react, and that it takes facts on the ground into consideration.

Regarding the new Islamic party's relationship with the Islamic movements in the arena, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, Mansur said that the Islamic party is independent from all the movements in the arena, and that it is neither Hamas, nor the Islamic Jihad, nor any other faction. Moreover, we are not a substitute for them.

PECDAR Concludes Economic Meeting in Cairo

MM2009101994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Sep 94 p 5

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Al-Nashashibi, Qaddumi Urge Speeding Up Aid"]

[Excerpts] Cairo—The Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDR) concluded its meeting in Cairo yesterday. In a statement following the council meeting, council executive director and PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi stressed that "the delay in international aid will create obstacles for the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]." Meanhile Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, finance minister in the PNA and a council member, told AL-HAYAH that "the donor states' aid is essential for economic development in Palestine." [passage omitted]

Qaddumi urged the continuation of Arab aid for the Palestinian people, "because delaying the aid will create obstacles for the PNA and hamper its work." He also called for "providing international aid in order to speed up the development process in the self-rule areas."

Qaddumi urged the PNA "not to deviate from its duties, to apply the laws, and not to arrest citizens in Gaza and Jericho willy-nilly." He added that Hamas and Islamic Jihad criticism of the authority "is a natural thing," saying that he himself had criticized President Yasir 'Arafat. "Anyone inside or outside the PLO is entitled to make criticisms."

Qaddumi denied that the Palestinians have "made any pledges to Israel to end the Palestinian intifadah," which he considered "a natural right as long as the Israeli occupation continues."

Asked about national unity, Qaddumi said that unity "exists within the framework of the PLO and the Palestinian national movement. The various factions have different methods regarding the recovery of Palestinian rights."

On Jerusalem, the PLO Political Department head said that "the recent Oslo accord between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on

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Peres contains no concessions over Jerusalem, which will be negotiated at the beginning of the third year in accordance with the declaration of principles." However, he stressed "the need to continue to raise the Jerusalem issue, to speed up talks on it, and to speed up the refugees' return in accordance with UN Resolution 194 of 1948 stipulating the right of return."

PFLP-DFLP Statement on Oslo Accord Anniversary

JN1709201894 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] The Unified Command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has issued a statement on the first anniversary of the treasonous Oslo agreement. It says: The humiliating and shameful agreement has produced horrendous results. This agreement has dealt a blow to the intifadah, and consecrated political divisions in the ranks of our people and their national movement.

The leadership that has chosen to act against national consensus signed the first Cairo agreement on the border crossing points of the self-rule areas, borders, and roads in February 1994. This agreement contained a series of concessions made at the expense of our people, their accomplishments, and their national gains.

The first anniversary of the agreement of humiliation and liquidation, which constitutes a black chapter in our people's history that harms their cause, provides a cheerless picture, and confirms that this agreement was meant to liquidate rather than resolve our people's question.

Hamas Spokesman Criticizes Oslo Document, 'Arafat

JN1909205394 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 5

[Text] Reacting to the signing of the Oslo declaration document, by 'Arafat and Peres, in the Norwegian capital last Tuesday, an official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has stated the following:

'Arafat cannot let the ill-fated Oslo agreement's anniversary pass without furnishing fresh evidence of his breaking ranks with our Palestinian people to join our criminal Zionist enemy's camp at the expense of their rights and aspirations. On the first annual anniversary of the demeaning 13 September 1993 Oslo accord, the second signing marks a new link in the chain of concessions and capitulation that builds on the giveaways yielded to the enemy in Oslo, Washington, Paris, and Cairo. These giveaways are used by the enemy as a cover for its repressive practices and coercive measures against our defenseless people and to promote its settlements and Judaization of our stolen Palestinian land and blessed sanctities. Our guileful enemy, at the same time, continues to drag its feet on the implementation of the accords and persists in humiliating the flimsy 'Arafat authority and robbing it of the basic trappings of sovereignty so 'Arafat and his authority may remain a cheap tool to advance the Zionist objective of controlling the Arab region.

The capitulationist Oslo declaration confirms the suspect role the 'Arafat authority is playing, under the guise of curbing violence, in oppressing the mujahidin and commandeering our people's legitimate right to resistance to occupation. Further, the Oslo accord leaves Jerusalem out of even international assistance. It also fails even to refer to Israel's settlement drive, ongoing Judaization, and the demographic and physical changes affecting Jerusalem's Arab and Islamic identity. 'Arafat is thus confirming his insistence on pursuing the path of surrender and disregard for our people's wishes and their categorical rejection of all concessions.

Hamas condemns the signing of the Oslo declaration and reiterates its rejection of all the homeland-selling agreements signed with the occupying enemy. None of these agreements has any binding force on our Palestinian people or represents them in any way.

PNA Plans To Issue Daily, Weekly Newspapers

TA1909151994 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Sep 94 p 6

[Text] Amman, QUDS PRESS—An official in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] has said that the PNA council is currently examining the possibility of issuing several daily and weekly newspapers. Khalid Mismar, a member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and the official responsible for Palestinian media in Jordan, pointed out that the PNA is thinking of issuing one Arabic-language daily newspaper and another one in English in addition to an Arabic-language weekly magazine "that will serve as the PNA's mouthpiece."

At present, the PNA is issuing the weekly AL-AQSA newspaper, which is distributed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mismar told QUDS PRESS that the PLO has suspended publication of FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH weekly magazine, organ of the PLO Executive Committee. He added that the "magazine's future is currently being reviewed" and that the option varies between issuing it with the introduction of changes, including its name, or closing it for good.

The Palestinian official disclosed that the publication of bimonthly Palestinian magazines issued by the PLO in Spanish, French, and English has been suspended because "their staff is being relocated to the autonomous areas." He did not say, however, whether the magazines will be reissued or closed permanently.

Mismar stressed that the Palestinian Radio and Television Corporation [PRTC] will begin its television broadcasts within a month. PRTC director Radwan Abu-'Ayyash had said that the reason broadcasts were delayed was because television transmission equipment had not arrived yet.

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In a related development, Mismar said that PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman "might assume responsibility for the PNA's media department." The information portfolio in the PNA council was entrusted to Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and arts.

Report Details Palestinian Authority Finances

TA1909113994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 16 Sep 94 p 10

[Text] A Palestinian economic report recently made public has revealed that the self-rule authority has only received $90 million out of $24 billion allocated by the donor countries to help the Palestinians cover the expenses of rebuilding the infrastructure in Gaza and Jericho.

The report clarified that the authority is facing many difficulties in executing the various developmental projects and in financing the autonomous areas, which need $11.2 billion until the year 2000. It argued that the flow of investors and businessmen into the autonomous areas will stop because basic services in all sectors are not provided for them.

The report suggested that all indicators point to a decline over recent years in the Palestinian economic performance, particularly in the period 1988-1990, when the total gross national product decreased to 12 percent annually, while the consumption rate reached 11.3 percent. The report added that the consumption expenses reached $213 million in 1989 compared to $196 million in 1987.

It also clarified that the decline in external financial resources has affected the Gross National Product (GNP), along with the decrease in manpower in Israel and in the demand for Palestinian manpower in Jordan and other Arab countries in 1988-1990, leading to the deterioration of the GNP by 12 percent.

The report studied the performance of the Palestinian commercial sector, explaining that its development has been affected by several factors. It added that the Israelis overlooked the issues that were linked with the administration of the economy, particularly the establishment and the maintenance of the infrastructure.

The report added that the decrease in Palestinian commercial activities during 1988-1991 reflected the weakness of Palestinian production and the absorption of commercial and economic energies in the interest of the Israeli economy.

It showed that the commercial exchange balance between Israel and Palestine was in Israel's favor by $417 million in 1985, and approximately $685 million in 1987, stressing that the Israeli economy buys 67 percent of Palestinian exports, and controls 90 percent of imports. However, the commercial balance between the occupies territories and the Arab countries, particularly Jordan and the Gulf countries, is in the interest of the occupied territories. There was a surplus of $77 million in 1985 to $29 million [as published].

The report continued that the infrastructure of the Palestinian economy is suffering because the agriculture sector's share of products has declined from 33 percent in 1980 to 20 percent in 1939. Agriculture continued to function in diminishing agricultural areas, with a shortage of natural resources particularly water. It added that unfair competition was created with Israeli export produce and the proportional increase of agricultural costs.

According to the report, the annual loss of the tourist sector has exceeded $75 million as a result of high costs of insurance fees against risks linked with traveling to the occupied territories.

Envoy Confirms Closure of VOP Radio Stations

JN1809091194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Sep 94 pp 32, 26

[Text] Amman-QUDS PRESS—'Azzam al-Ahmad, Palestinian ambassador to Iraq, has said the PLO stopped its radio transmission from Baghdad last Friday [16 September]. He said the PLO stopped the transmission of its stations in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, and in Algiers about a month ago. Al-Ahmad said the decision to suspend the transmissions was made following the transfer of the Palestinian Authority to the Palestinian self-rule area. Al-Ahmad said: "We now depend on the Gaza and Jericho broadcast station, which carries the same name, the Voice of Palestine [VOP].

Earlier, the Palestinian Authority began broadcasting in the self-rule area, but the transmission is still experimental.

Al-Ahmad, a member of Fatah's Revolutionary Council whom Israel allowed to return to the self-rule area recently, said Iraqi officials expressed their "readiness to provide the Palestinian radio with any assistance that falls within their capabilities under the current conditions."

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Algeria

Sifi Said To Resign; Aslaoui Resignation Confirmed

JN2009125294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish from Algiers]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] An official source has confirmed the report on the resignation of Minister Leila Aslaoui, the official spokesperson for the government who resigned four days ago to protest the policy of President Zeroual and the release of the Islamic Salvation Front leaders.

We have confirmed information on the resignation of Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi for reasons said to be different from Leila Aslaoui's, but these reasons are still unknown. It is also not known whether or not the prime minister's resignation will be accepted. Meanwhile, there has been a great deal of talk about an imminent cabinet reshuffle, in addition to reports on the prime minister's resignation.

Dembri Comments on Relase of FIS Leaders

MM1909134994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Sep 94 pp1, 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] What is the significance of President Zeroual's decision to release the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] leaders?

[Dembri] The main aim of President Zeroual's policy is national accord. That has been one of his policy's consistent features since the announcement of the previous initiatives and throughout the current initiative for the start of a systematic dialogue among all the political factions and reputable patriotic figures so that all may be able to determine the future prospects of Algerian society.

In his speech when he first assumed power in Algeria, President Zeroual said that Algeria needed all its sincere sons to overcome all the tribulations and find the necessary solutions that would end the various current crises in the country. It is in that whole framework that the dialogue will begin among the political groups that did not, in the first phase, participate in the state's transitional institutions.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you expect the dialogue to succeed, and have you prepared alternatives in the event of failure?

[Dembri] We are very optimistic. The step taken by President Zeroual may act as a catalyst in creating the right atmosphere for the success of the dialogue. We also rely on the initiative of Abbassi Madani sent to President Zeroual last August expressing his acceptance of the specified framework for dialogue, which is respect for the constant constitutional principles and the laws of the land, respect for partisan pluralism, and rotation of power. These are important issues for Algerian society.

As regards alternatives, the agenda is open to all proposals from all parties. We will not deny any political or partisan group any legitimate right, and we will accept all the ideas that would ultimately lead to national dialogue.

[Abu-Husayn] But it seems that the armed religious groups that are still resorting to the option of armed action reject the principle of dialogue between the FIS and President Zeroual's government as evident in the fact that they carried out new operations after the release of FIS leaders.

[Dembri] These problems might disappear once the dialogue succeeds, but I am not an official spokesman of these groups. We hope that through serious dialogue we will be able to find the necessary solutions for all problems.

[Abu-Husayn] It has been rumored that the release of the FIS leaders came after the mediation of some Arab and Western states to pave the way for a resolution of the Algerian crisis. May we know the details?

[Dembri] We have no information on that. What is certain is, as I said earlier, President Zeroual's desire to benefit from all the patriotic political elements.

[Abu-Husayn] Has it been decided that the dialogue would start and end on certain dates within which to produce practical results that could be implemented immediately?

[Dembri] It has been initially agreed that the dialogue will begin on 20 September. The end date is open so the dialogue will continue with a view to producing a definite result in the direction of national accord.

[Abu-Husayn] How prepared is President Zeroual's government to give the FIS leaders important posts in government?

[Dembri] That issue is subject to the agenda and the constant principle of Algerian policy on rotation of power. Furthermore, I draw attention to the Algerian Presidency's official statement issued last week giving the broad outlines, the most important being effective contribution to the dialogue and finding the necessary solutions to end the country's current crises and finding a way to a satisfactory economic position in the Arab and international markets gradually and without paying a high price for the country's economic reform.

[Abu-Husayn] What is the next step after the release of the FIS leaders?

[Dembri] Let us wait and see the effect of that step.

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[Abu-Husayn] Does Abbassi Madani fully control the acts of violence that occur in Algeria?

[Dembri] No comment.

[Abu-Husayn] Was cessation of terrorist operations one of the conditions for a dialogue with the FIS?

[Dembri] We have not made any conditions, but everyone knows the constant legal principles we consider to be the basis for dialogue, and the brothers in the FIS have accepted that.

[Abu-Husayn] Will the ban on FIS activities be lifted?

[Dembri] We do not comment on partial issues. There is a wide scope for dialogue, and the door is open to all and the agenda is open to all proposals. I believe that movement and dynamism in the dialogue will probably increase the scope for many measures.

[Abu-Husayn] It has been rumored that there were contacts between FIS and some U.S. officials and that FIS agreed to a dialogue after U.S. persuasion. How true is that?

[Dembri] These are rumors. Algeria has official relations with many states including the United States. The declared official position in Algeria is the one providing the reasons for the dialogue.

[Abu-Husayn] Did Algeria make use of the Egyptian method of combatting the fundamentalists before it was decided to hold a dialogue and release the prisoners, with the obvious difference?

[Dembri] Every country has its own experience. The societies in the Arab countries are exposed to radical changes in the management of internal political affairs. There are two particular issues, namely, how do we organize partisan pluralism and how do we uphold the constant features of the national identity?

[Abu-Husayn] What is the latest on the current problem between Morocco and Algeria?

[Dembri] The situation is still the same but we will not be the cause of the start of any problem with any Arab country. We are in absolute solidarity with our brothers in Arabism and Islam. That is considered the basis of Algerian diplomacy. We uphold the people's aspirations and we embrace the Arab Maghreb Union as an integral part of the Arab world and, as far as we are concerned, the Maghreb Union is a strategic choice not a political tactic.

Parties Not To Participate in New Dialogue Round

FIS Not To Take Part

LD1909191294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpt] A new appointment has been made for tomorrow between the authority and the five parties within the framework of the fourth round of the national dialogue. The new round is marked by new facts following the head of state's decision to transfer FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] Abassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj from the Blida prison to another residence and the release of three leaders of the dissolved FIS party. The round is marked also by considerable interest on the part of the national and foreign public opinions. Noureddine reports:

[Begin Noureddine recording] These new facts had positive repercussions and reactions following the initiative of the head of state, which was welcomed inside and outside the homeland, particularly on the part of the countries considered as essential partners of Algeria. Concerning the presence of the rest of the parties in the new round, particularly the representatives of the dissolved FIS, information sources have confirmed that there will be no FIS participation, given the inability of FIS leadership bodies to attend under these circumstances. As for the other parties that have already been invited to the dialogue, the Rally for Culture and Democracy and Ettahadi Movement still affirm that they will not take part in the new round given that they boycotted the previous rounds of the dialogue. The position of the Socialist Forces Front, which had boycotted the previous rounds, will be known today following the meeting of its national council. [end recording] [passage omitted]

FFS Not To Attend

LD1909223294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] On the eve of the resumption of the national dialogue, the FFS [Socialist Forces Front] announced this evening that it would not be participating in the new stage of the national dialogue, pointing out that this decision is not final. According to APS, citing a source close to the FFS, the FFS will remain prepared to continue bilateral contacts with the authority and the other parties to put an end to the crisis in the country.

FIS Leader on Releases; Sudanese Mediation Denied

MM1909160994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Amir Taheri in London and Muhammad Sadiq in Washington: "Haddam: We Await New Security Guarantees from the Government"]

[Excerpts] Anouar Haddam, head of the parliamentary mission of the Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] abroad, has described the release of Abbassi Madani, Ali Belhadj, and other FIS leaders as "a positive step" but said that FIS is waiting for security guarantees from the Algerian Government to make it easier for its leadership to hold meetings to discuss dialogue issues. Haddam

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hinted that he wished to return to Algeria after the provision of security guarantees and creation of a suitable atmosphere.

On the question of the dialogue, Haddam told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "We are very hopeful about the dialogue. The crisis must end and there must be movement toward a political solution with wisdom and patience, taking one firm step at a time."

He added that "despite the release of the two cheikhs, which was a positive step, it has been decided in coordination with brother Rabeh Kebir, Ahmed Zawi, and the rest of the FIS functionaries abroad, where developments are under observation, that the necessary security prerequisites have not yet been fulfilled to give the release any meaning or to enable Cheikhs Madani and Belhadj to hold meetings freely with the other FIS leaders at home and abroad and with the mujahidin in order to come up with a plan representing FIS as a whole, after which we could begin negotiations from which we could emerge with credibility and could produce results."

On the necessary prerequisites, Haddam said: "Frankly, as we know, there are some generals who reject dialogue. Therefore their position must be made clear now, and we must ask whether they would really be the people to provide the security prerequisites." He added: "A statement may be issued tomorrow (today) or the day after expressing these points."

On the chances of a cessation of violence, Haddam said: "Cheikh Abbassi Madani was frank and clear on this matter. If they are allowed to meet among themselves and meet with FIS leaders at home and abroad and with the mujahidin and produce an agreement or a joint plan, then naturally the mujahidin will be asked to cease fire."

Asked if he had been contacted and if there was a possibility of his returning to participate in the negotiations, Haddam said that contacts were being held with him, that he and everyone else hoped that they would be able to return, and that they had been forced out of the country and thus sent on an assignment to carry out their mission.

He denied that there was a split within FIS that would warrant its reunification after Madani's release. He also said that it was premature to comment on the statement made by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Sudanese National Islamic Front [NIF], to the effect that it had been his mediation and his efforts with the Algerian Government that had led to the release of Madani and Belhadj. [passage omitted]

From his residence in Germany an FIS spokesman denied al-Turabi's claims. He said: "There have been no deals with the authorities, and that means that there was no alleged mediator." He added that he did not wish to comment directly on Dr. al-Turabi's claim because he did not wish to "cause any unnecessary argument." But he pointed out that FIS had rejected an invitation to attend al-Turabi's "conference" last year. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Said Saadi, secretary general of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, has accused the government of preparing for "national surrender to extremism to ensure its own continuation." In a statement on the FIS leaders' release Saadi said that his movement "will continue the resistance as strongly as ever as a political right and a national duty."

He added that "patriots like us, who resist in their villages, city districts, factories, and schools know that any new deviation or hesitation would destroy the republic."

Release Welcomed as 'First Step'

MM1909152394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Kebir Tells AL-HAYAH: Madani and Belhadj Optimistic, but Conditions for Truce Have Not Been Met"]

[Excerpts] London , Algiers, AL-HAYAH—Cheikh Rabeh Kebir, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad, said in a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday that he had spoken to the Front's leader, Cheikh Abassi Madani, and his deputy, Ali Belhadj. He said that the Front will not participate in the dialogue scheduled to be held in the Algerian capital on Tuesday.

He also said that the cheikhs' release represents a first step, which should be followed by the release of all the Front's leaders before a truce with the regime can be announced.

It was learned in Algiers yesterday that Cheikhs Madani and Belhadj yesterday received a number of the Front's leaders and supporters and headed a meeting of a number of Shura Council members. The cheikhs are believed to have received from the leading members with whom they met clearer details on the situation in the country and the truth about what is happening following the contacts made by the leaders authorized to coordinate with the various Algerian areas.

Reliable sources in Algiers said yesterday that security elements displeased about the release of the FIS leaders fired shots near the hospitality house in which Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj are staying in the Algerian capital. The house is near the Algeria Hotel (formerly St. George) in the center of the capital.

AL-HAYAH received a telephone call from an unknown person in Paris yesterday evening. He said that he was speaking from Batna in Algeria. He said that Cheikhs Mohamed El Said and Abdelrazzak Radjam "have returned to the FIS fold after the release of the Front's leaders. They have decided to boycott the Armed Islamic

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Group, fulfilling a pledge they had made at the loyalty meeting in Batna. And they have decided to comply with the Front's orders." [passage omitted]

While Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front in Sudan, said that Sudan "was behind the rapprochement" between the FIS and President Liamine Zeroual's regime, Algerian sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the authorities believe that the step taken in releasing the FIS leaders is "the last chance" for the Front to show its good intentions and to prove that it is seeking to adopt a peaceful option, not violence as a means to achieve power.

The sources pointed out that high-ranking leaders in the military establishment and in the power pyramid believe that the FIS must abandon violence and remove from its ranks those insisting on the so-called "jihad" against the regime if they refuse to adopt the peaceful option. It seems that government officials are agreed that the FIS's duty now—after the regime's initiatives—is to persuade its armed wing to abandon violence, agree to a "truce" with the security forces, and come to the negotiating table.

The sources said that the main problem is that state leaders do not believe that the FIS either wants to adopt a peaceful solution or can proceed with one, because the balance of power inside it is currently tilting in favor of the armed groups. However, the sources said that Cheikh Abassi Madani has considerable influence among Algerian armed groups, and his opinion is respected and heeded, hence the gamble on allowing him to meet and make contacts with the Front's leaders.

The sources added that many people in the authorities suspect the Front and its intentions. They accuse it of having "two faces and two tongues"—a reference to the peaceful, democratic image of Cheikh Madani in contrast to the hard-line image of Cheikh Belhadj.

Cheikh Kebir said in a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday: "The FIS leaders and we refer to the letter dated 6 September 1994, which all the leaders who were held in Blida prison sent to the president, the parties, and public opinion." He added that the cheikhs' release is aimed at securing "a legitimate, just solution" between the freed cheikhs and all the FIS leaders. He added that the cheikhs were promised by the authorities that all the FIS leaders, all Shura Council and Provisional Executive Bureau members, and all office members in the provinces would be released as a first step, following which these leaders would hold consultations with a view to resolving the Algerian crisis. He added that they were also promised that desert detention centers would be closed, "But this has not happened. Thus no truce will be announced before all the leaders meet." He said that the cheikhs' morale is good and that they are cautiously optimistic about the possibility of reaching a solution. He added that Cheikhs Madani and Belhadj are doing their utmost to resolve the crisis. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH learned yesterday that the FIS "parliamentary mission" abroad, which is headed by Anouar Haddam, will in the next few hours contact the Algerian authorities to learn what "guarantees" they would offer to FIS elements abroad if they decide to enter Algeria to meet with the FIS leader, Cheikh Abassi Madani.

Haddam told AL-HAYAH from his residence in Chicago, United States, that the mission that he heads yesterday studied the content of the message to be delivered to the Algerian state by a delegation believed to comprise two people. He said that the aim of the visit is for the "parliamentary mission" to ascertain the "good intentions" of President Zeroual's regime vis-a-vis the adoption of dialogue. He said that contacts with the FIS leadership inside the country—represented in Cheikh Madani and his deputy, Cheikh Ali Belhadj—are awaiting the "green light" from President Zeroual.

Haddam pointed out that no contacts have yet been made between the parliamentary mission and Cheikhs Madani and Belhadj, who were transferred last Tuesday from Blida military prison to the hospitality house belonging to the Algerian Presidency.

He said that he does not object to returning to Algeria and participating in the meeting expected to held by Cheikh Madani with FIS political and military officials inside and outside Algeria. He pointed out that his return is linked to conditions and guarantees that the authorities have to meet to offer.

He renewed his support for the step taken by the Algerian authorities in releasing three FIS cheikhs—Abdelkader Omar, Kamal Ghamazi, and Nouroddin Chigara—and transferring Cheikhs Madani and Belhadj from Blida Prison to the capital. He expressed his hope that the cheikhs will be allowed to sit down freely with all FIS leaders inside and outside the country in order to produce proposals within an "integrated plan" designed to resolve the crisis in Algeria. He expressed his hope that the authorities are "serious" in seeking a solution. He stressed that the cheikhs' release is "a preliminary step." [passage omitted]

No Commitment Said Given

NC1909150194 Paris AFP in English 1430 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Algiers, Sept 19 (AFP)—The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) made "no commitments" to Algeria's military government before its leaders were released from prison last week, one of the freed prisoners said Monday.

"We have made no commitments," said Kamel Guemmazi, set free last Tuesday from the Blida military prison. The senior FIS official added that no preconditions had been agreed to before the release as "people who are not free cannot make commitments."

"We simply expressed our readiness to work to find a legal and just solution" to the crisis, said Guemmazi in an interview with the weekly Arabic language AL A'LEM AL SIYASI magazine.

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In July 1992 a military court sentenced the former FIS official for the Algiers region to six years in jail.

Two other senior FIS memebers were freed at the same time as Guemmazi, Nourredine Chigara and Omar Abdelkader.

The Front's president Abassi Madani and vice-president Ali Belhadj were released from prison on the same day but subsequently placed under house arrest at a secret location.

Guemmazi confirmed the two FIS leaders were currently living "under surveillance" in a location "chosen by the state."

"No talks can be entered into until after a full meeting of the FIS's leadership" Guemmazi continued.

"That includes the political wing of the party both inside and outside" Algeria as well as the FIS's armed wing.

"No decision" could be taken before this meeting, which would have to be held in "conditions of absolute freedom," Guemmazi said.

On Saturday, spokesman for the Front's leadership-in-exile, Rabeh Kebir, called for Madani and Belhadj to be released within 15 days.

Egypt

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Arrives in Cairo on Visit

Met by Foreign Minister

NC1709175994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1714 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo from al-'Arish this afternoon on a brief visit to Egypt, during which he will meet with President Husni Mubarak. He was received at Cairo airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Following President 'Arafat's arrival, Musa stated that President Husni Mubarak's talks tomorrow in Alexandria with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will examine the situation in Gaza and Jericho in particular, and the Palestinian situation in general.

For his part, 'Arafat said that he will discuss with President Mubarak the details of the Palestinian-Israeli talks held in Oslo as well as the results of the recent meeting in Paris of the donor states providing aid to the Palestinians. He added: I will discuss other subjects with President Mubarak as part of our continuing consultations and will listen to his valuable advice, not because President Mubarak is a party to the issue, but because Egypt and Palestine are partners in the Palestinian issue.

Holds Talks With Musa

NC1809055394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at his place of residence this evening.

Palestinian sources in Cairo told MENA that 'Arafat and Musa discussed the peace process, the outcome of the recent Palestinian-Israeli talks, the region's developments in general, a number of regional and world issues of common interest, and Egyptian-Palestinian relations.

Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestine's ambassador and representative of the Fatah Movement in Cairo, and Muhammad Subayh, Palestinian delegate at the Arab League and secretary of the Palestine National Council, attended the meeting.

Recieved by Mubarak

NC1809095794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this morning. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Palestinian Ambassador Zuhdi al-Qidrah also attended the meeting.

'Arafat arrived in Cairo yesterday.

Mubarak Meets With Visiting Libyan Official

NC1709083694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—This morning, President Husni Mubarak received Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Unity, who arrived in Cairo last night on a visit of two days.

The meeting was attended by Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent Arab League envoy.

Musa Meets Libyan Official

NC1709205194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met tonight with Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Unity. The Libyan official said they exchanged views on many issues of common interest, including developing bilateral relations in light of the directives of President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

He added that they also discussed inter-Arab ties, ways to emerge from the Arab nation's crisis, and enabling the nation to deal with world changes and developments, especially those that affect the Arabs. He noted that the views were identical and affirmed that coordination between the two countries is continuing.

Commenting on Arab differences, he said there is a Libyan initiative announced by leader al-Qadhdhafi on the 1 September anniversary. He added that during his meeting with President Mubarak today, they discussed the practical aspect of the Libyan initiative, noting that he expects the initiative to materialize.

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Foreign Minister Musa Leaves for Washington

NC2009064094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Washington this morning for a three-day visit to the United States.

In Washington, Musa will hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the Middle East peace process and ways to overcome obstacles blocking a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

The foreign minister will go to New York Saturday to head Egypt's delegation at the UN General Assembly meetings. He will deliver Egypt's address at the General Assembly session on Monday.

People's Assembly Speaker Elected IPU President

NC1709113694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Copenhagen, 17 Sep (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur was elected president of the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] in a session held by the IPU conference in Copenhagen today.

Dr. Surur succeeds Michael Marshall, whose presidential term ends in October.

Chilean Senate President Valdes Subercaseaux competed with Dr. Surur for the post.

Dr. Surur won 116 votes while his rival won 103 votes. [passage omitted]

AL-AHRAR Chief Editor Arrested, Interrogated

Charged With Publishing False Reports

NC1809210894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecution Office began today to interrogate journalist Mustafa Bakri, chief editor of AL-AHRAR, on charges of publishing—in return for material benefits from countries hostile to Egypt—false reports that might disturb public security and for harming Egypt's relations with other countries.

The prosecution office confronted Mustafa Bakri with these charges and with tape recordings made by the security organs after being permitted to do so by the Prosecution Office. The journalist denied these charges and said that what was published represented the al-Ahrar Party's political line.

The interrogation was conducted by Hani Burhan, head of the Prosecution Office, under the supervision of Hisham Saraya, first public attorney of the Higher State Security Prosecution Office.

The interrogation was attended by Hatim Zakariya, the Journalists Association secretary, and a number of lawyers.

Disappears After Questioning

NC1909135694 Paris AFP in English 1315 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept 19 (AFP)—An editor who criticized the UN population conference has disappeared after questioning by state security on charges of taking bribes to damage Egypt's reputation, his newspaper said Monday.

Mustafa Bakri, editor-in-chief of the pro-Islamist opposition daily AL-AHRAR, "was kidnapped after he left the state security building" on Sunday night, 'Abd-al-Fattah Tal'at, the paper's managing editor told AFP.

"(Bakri) has not been seen since," Tal'at said. "We believe he was taken to another interrogation centre, where psychological pressure can be put on him."

Minutes after he left the state security building, the official Egyptian news agency MENA said Bakri had been released after paying bail of 5,000 pounds (1,475 dollars).

But both AL-AHRAR and the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) said he could not be found.

"We have been calling the police since last night, and there is no information," said 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad of the EOHR.

According to AL-AHRAR, Bakri's friends and family had been told to pay the bail and then fetch him from a police station in Madinat al-Nasr, a Cairo suburb, at the end of his day-long detention.

A policeman in the Madinat al-Nasr police station, contacted on Monday, said Bakri was "still in the state security building."

Upon leaving the state security building, Bakri was put in a private car, surrounded by two police cars and driven toward a police station in Heliopolis, another Cairo suburb, according to AL-AHRAR staff.

Fellow staff members who were with him during at least part of the interrogation were told to follow in their cars.

However, police "blocked the road and sped off," knocking down a policeman in their haste, according to his colleagues. But police at the Heliopolis station denied the report.

Bakri was summoned to explain his paper's coverage of the UN world population conference, which ended here September 13.

Officials charged that the paper's attacks on the conference were launched in return for money from countries like Sudan and Iraq to rouse the public against the Egyptian government.

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AL-AHRAR was one of the strongest critics of the conference, charging its action plan encouraged homosexuality and pre-marital sex. Police also said they had recordings of Bakri talking to Islamic militants.

Bakri denied the charges, saying he was "exercising his right of expression as the editor-in-chief of an opposition newspaper which expresses the political views of the opposition Al-Ahrar party."

Released After 30-Hour Interrogation

NC1909182794 Paris AFP in English 1709 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept 19 (AFP)—Police released an opposition newspaper editor on bail Monday after a 30-hour interrogation on charges of taking bribes to damage Egypt's reputation.

Mustafa Bakri, editor-in-chief of the pro-Islamist daily AL-AHRAR, told AFP that he was questioned the whole day on Sunday before being transferred in secret to a police commissioner's office.

"The police put me in a car and bound my eyes so that I would not know where they were taking me," Bakri explained. He only found out the next morning.

The editor said the police accused him of publishing reports aimed at damaging Egypt's relations with Saudi Arabia and that he had been paid, notably by Yemen, to stir the population against the government.

"These accusations are unfounded," he insisted, without giving details of the charges.

Bakri was also questioned on his newspaper's attacks on the UN population conference held in Cairo from September 5-13. Its action plan encouraged abortion, homosexuality and pre-marital sex, AL-AHRAR charged.

Saudi Arabia boycotted the Cairo conference because of similar concerns over the UN plan.

The Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights (EOHR) condemned Bakri's detention as a "flagrant violation of freedom of opinion and expression that endangers press freedom in Egypt."

Earlier, AL-AHRAR said its editor was missing after having been released on Sunday night from the state security offices.

Minutes after he left the state security building, the official Egyptian news agency MENA said Bakri had been released after paying bail of 5,000 pounds (1,475 dollars).

But both AL-AHRAR and the EOHR said he could not be found on Monday, despite contacts with the police.

Bakri has denied the police charges, saying he was "exercising his right of expression as the editor-in-chief of an opposition newspaper which expresses the political views of the opposition AL- AHRAR party."

Local Currency Deposits Rise, Dollar Savings Fall

NC1609160194 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 16 Sep 94 p 9

[Report by Majid 'Atiyah]

[Text] The Egyptian Central Bank's annual report on banking activity and local and international economic developments during fiscal year 1993-94 is being prepared.

The report shows that total deposits in banks operating in Egypt reached 135.8 billion Egyptian pounds on 30 June 1994, as compared to 126.85 billion in June 1993, thus recording an increase of approximately 9 billion in one year. Of this amount, 80 percent were family deposits. The figures show something important; namely, an increase in savings in local currency against a drop in dollar savings. Foreign currency deposits reached the equivalent of 40 million pounds, as compared to 41.3 billion in the previous year, a drop of 1.3 billion pounds.

The figures showed an increase in loans and borrowings in excess of deposits. While deposits showed an increase of 9 billion pounds, loans increased by 11.5 billion.

The total amount of deposits in commercial banks, including the four public sector banks, reached 125.7 billion, as compared to 117.6 in the previous year, which indicates an increase of 8.1 billion pounds. Of this amount, local currency deposits in commercial banks reached 91.4 billion, while deposits in foreign currency reached 34.3 billion. Loans and borrowings within these banks amounted to 59.7 billion pounds, as compared to 49.6 billion in the previous year, an increase of 10.1 billion.

The amount of deposits held in investment and business banks, including branches of foreign banks, reached 10.1 billion pounds, as compared to 9.25 billion in the previous year. Of this amount, 4.3 billion were held in local currency and 5.8 billion in foreign currencies. However, deposits in foreign currencies dropped to 5.8 billion pounds, as compared to 6.1 billion the previous year. In the meantime, local currency deposits increased by approximately 1.2 billion pounds from the previous fiscal year's figures.

Military Court Sentences 'Islamic Militants'

NC2009110594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1002 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Alexandria, 20 Sep (MENA)—The Higher Military Court in Alexandria today passed its ruling on criminal case No. 19 of 1994, in the jurisdiction of the military public prosecution, known as "al-Mahmudiyah Organization."

The court issued a unanimous verdict to execute the first defendant, Ahmad Muhammad Jum'ah, who was

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present, and another unanimous verdict in absentia to execute the second defendant, fugitive Sharif Muhammad Hassan.

The court sentenced the third defendant, fugitive Muhammad Sa'd al-Ghabburi, to 15 years hard labor and the 10th and 11th defendants, fugitive brothers Anwar Mahmud Mutawalli and Mustafa Mahmud Mutawalli, to 10 years hard labor.

The court also sentenced the fourth and sixth defendants, Muhammad al-Sawi al-Nahili and Hamid Muhammad Abu-al-Naja respectively, the seventh defendant, 'Ali al-Sayyid Naji, and the ninth, Wala' 'Izzat al-Sha'ir, to five years at hard labor. It also sentenced the fifth defendant, Muhammad Sa'id Sharaf, and the eighth, Husam-al-Din Ahmad Ta'lab, to three years hard labor.

[Paris AFP in English at 1021 GMT on 20 September in a related item reports the following:

["Cairo, Sept 20 (AFP)—The Egyptian military high court in Alexandria on Tuesday [20 September] sentenced two Islamic militants to death for membership of a militant group and conspiracy to overthrow the government, the official Middle East News Agency said.

["The two militants, one of whom is on the run, were on trial with 9 others. They also faced charges of conspiracy to murder although their target was not identified.

["Islamic militants launched a campaign in March 1992 to topple Egypt's secularist government, which has left 446 people dead."]

The Public Military Prosecutor had indicted the defendants, all of them from al-Buhayrah Governorate, on charges of membership in an illegal group that uses terrorism as a method to achieve its aims and criminal conspiracy to overthrow the government by force; arms possession; and forgery, including the fraudulent use of the first and second defendants' passports by the other members. He said that the first and second defendants were the leaders of the group.

Investigations proved that the first defendant participated in a special training course in espionage in Sudan and took further training—with the second defendant—in terrorist operations in two camps in Yemen and Sudan. The investigations showed that they travelled to those two countries via Jordan.

The investigations also showed the first defendant obtained funds from foreign parties transferred to him via a bank in Damanhur. [passage omitted]

The court said that because terrorist organizations act clandestinely, the law approves nipping them in the bud. The court explained that the law feels that every member of such an organization is a time bomb that can only be defused by being handled early. [passage omitted]

The court warned all those who are tempted to undermine Egypt's stability that this homeland is protected by its sons, who are able to surmount all ordeals and are not discouraged by criminals who wish to ruin the country's resources. [passage omitted]

Police Kill 'Armed Civilians,' Not 'Militants'

NC1909124294 Paris AFP in English 1205 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, Sept 19 (AFP)—Police shot and killed three armed civilians on Monday in southern Egypt after having mistaken them for Muslim militants, police said.

Police said they opened fire after the three refused to stop at a checkpoint near al-Qusiyah, about 380 kilometers (235 miles) south of Cairo, and after they first fired their weapons, wounding one of the policemen.

The civilians were carrying unlicenced rifles and a revolver, and police believe they were planning to use the weapons in a family blood feud. [passage omitted]

Egyptian police have set up additional security checkpoints and staged a series of nationwide raids to counter a resurgence in Muslim militant attacks in the past three weeks. [passage omitted]

'Unknown Men' Shoot, Wound 4 People

NC2009070794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—Yesterday evening, unknown men opened fire at the Manshiyat al-Maghaliqah municipality headquarters in Markaz Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate, wounding a regular sentry and three passers by.

An Interior Ministry statement said the wounded were taken to the Mallawi Central Hospital for treatment while al-Minya security and the criminal laboratory officials went to the scene; nearby plantations and villages are being searched for the culprits.

The wounded are sentry Khalaf Shihatah 'Abd-al-Malik, Kamil Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahim, Sha'ban Dahi 'Abd-al-Qadir, and 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Abd- al-Na'im 'Abd-al-Rahim. The prosecution has begun an investigation.

Libya

JANA Criticizes U.S. Policy, Statements

Clinton Speech on Haiti Denounced

LD1909155294 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Tripoli, Al Fatih [September] 19 Jamahariyah News Agency—After hearing the American President's speech last week JANA's political editor made a number of observations highlighting the obvious contradictions used to justify the pretexts for the invasion of Haiti.

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At the beginning of the speech the American President resorted to the expression "international efforts" as a cover for the invasion. But he quickly stumbled in stark contradiction as he began his address which described the invasion as a purely American military operation aimed at safeguarding America's interests.

The American President then gave several justifications for the invasion saying this invasion is a protection of America's borders with Haiti, which he described as threatening American national security. This provoked the observers and made them question the relationship between international efforts and American interests in Haiti and whether it was possible to believe that a small state like Haiti poses a threat to the borders and security of the largest nuclear power in the world.

In another contradiction the American President said: I have instructed the defense secretary to recall the military and I also ordered the aircraft carriers to head towards the area, thus quickly forgetting the statement he made at the beginning of the speech when he described the invasion as an international effort.

How can we logically connect the instructions of the American President and the American efforts unless that is the logic of power, which America believes provides it with a justification to speak on behalf of the international community and issue orders in its name.

In another precedent which is very surprising the American President said that it is the Security Council which issued the order to invade Haiti to restore what he termed as democracy.

The speech also said that America cannot afford to be a policeman for the whole world. This is correct. But it does not mean that America doesn't want to be an international policeman. It wants that role and is playing it.

This filthy picture of the invasion is the participation of blood-stained parties and parties involved in massacres and slaughter such as the racist Israeli entity and other parties subjugated by need and pressure from America such as Jordan for example.

Can we describe such a style as anything other than Hitler's style? Is this the democracy America calls for?

Does dictatorship amount to anything more than what is done by the American President who acts individually in issuing orders to invade another state without even consulting his people or his representative council—a so-called front for Western democracy.

Have the rulers of those countries which were drawn into taking part in invasion been consulted? Are those countries democratic in the first instance from the American point of view so that they hurry to defend democracy thousands of miles from their territories. Do the United Nations Charters have any standards for defining the levels of democracy? What is the standard adopted by America when it describes one state as democratic and another as devoid of democracy?

The American President goes on revealing ideas for a previously prepared strategy purely in support of their intentions as he defined in his speech the details of the plan and its stages which starts with the invasion and ends [words indistinct] the system which America wants under the cover of the farce of elections under military occupation. This makes us question once again what sort of democracy is realised by the sword the spears and the guns of the occupiers.

What is announced by the American President reflects only the will of the American President not the Haitian people. In line with this understanding democracy means, according to the logic expressed [word indistinct] by the American President, the imposition of the (?exploitive) capitalist system which is embodied in the so-called free market and that by military power and aircraft carriers and not through the conviction of the people and their [word indistinct]. In his speech he said that America will not engage in any process for the reconstruction of Haiti following its invasion and destruction and that the international community has to take care of that. This is an open admission that America is only involved in the process of destruction, demolition and mass murder and lets the others reconstruct and pay for the consequences.

The American President spoke about what he described as crimes and human rights violations being committed in Haiti while ignoring the fact that his country is arming, supporting and protecting Israeli terrorists who continue committing the most atrocious crimes of mass killing and massacres in Palestine and Lebanon.

America is even involving those mass murders and outlaws in what it describes as the protection of democracy in the world.

What is the difference here between the rulers of Haiti and the Israelis? If the American pretext for the invasion of Haiti is human rights crimes why doesn't the American President co-ordinate with the United Nations to return seven million exiled Palestinians to their homes and land like those he considered refugees from Haiti?

The American President said in his speech that no president can take such a decision (of invading Haiti) without prayers. In this instance it is necessary to confirm that the people are the origin of the decision and it is not prayers that are being implicated here in what is rejected by all religions.

Hitler and Mussolini used to pray and until very recently you ridiculed Saddam for praying in his office while he was giving instructions to invade Kuwait. What is the difference in the cases?

The American President persisted in implicating the states around the world in his strategy against Haiti and said: The countries of the world have tried by all means

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to return Haiti to democracy but in fact the American President himself knows that the states of the world are not concerned with that. We question whether all the countries of the world are democratic and what is democracy.

The American President has called publically for the expulsion of the Haitian officials from their country. We wish to question under what pretext he wants to expel a national from his country unless this is the law of the jungle where larger animals kill smaller ones. Humanity credits America with pioneering this law.

Statement on Sudan Viewed

LD1809081894 Tripoli JANA in English 0803 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Washington, 18 Sep (JANA)— A spokesman for the American State Department declared that Sudan rejected American evidence which claimed that Sudan allowed one of the groups to operate within its territory.

The spokesman said that this measure would not allow relations to improve between the two countries.

This how America deals, as usual, with other countries in the world either for these countries to comply with American orders and accept American instructions or they will be a source of trouble in the America's eyes.

Mauritania

President Taya Receives Burkinabe Foreign Minister

AB2009102094 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 2000 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya today received Burkinabe External Relations Minister Ablasseh Ouedraogo, who is a special envoy from Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore. After the audience, the Burkinabe external relations minister said that his discussions with President Taya were on bilateral cooperation. He also delivered a message from President Compaore to President Taya. Let us listen to him. He was interviewed by Salim Alhassane:

[Begin recording] [Ouedraogo] I was received by His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Taya. I bear a message from his brother and friend, Burkinabe President His Excellency Blaise Compaore. Of course, I cannot give you the contents of the message, but we took the opportunity to inform President Taya about events in the subregion that interest our two countries.

[Alhassane] In concrete terms, what are the current issues in the subregion to which Ouagadougou and Nouakchott intend to find common solutions?

[Ouedraogo] They are simply problems of development. As you can imagine, we cannot speak about development without adequate security, peace, and stability. We also spoke about the possibility of having integrated economies—that is to say, complementary economies. As you know, our two countries maintain excellent relations of friendship and cooperation, which are a great asset for us. We have to work in this sense to make our two countries interdependent.

[Alhassane] Mr. Minister, a few weeks ago, the president received another emissary from Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore. Can this succession of emissaries from Ouagadougou to Nouakchott be interpreted as the beginning of renewed solidarity between the two countries? If so, what are the areas envisaged?

[Ouedraogo] I do not think that there is any secret behind this. Our relations are very good. I think that within a very short time we will organize a joint commission meeting that will enable the two countries to define the sectors that can help the two countries' economies to be complementary. We will work with my brother and friend, Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal, who is presently beside me here. You will know of the results. [end recording]

Joint Meeting With Mali on Border Security Ends

AB1909224194 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 1500 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The meeting between Mauritanian and Malian officials in charge of the interior has ended. Here, right away, is a report by our special correspondent, Seydou Guido.

[Begin recording] [Guido] The final communique stated that in the area of administrative and border cooperation, both the Malian and Mauritanian sides expressed satisfaction with the regular meetings held between their border authorities, which have achieved positive results since the Kayes meeting in 1993.

The two sides noted, however, that difficulties are being encountered in the establishment of village committees charged with settling border disputes between villages along the two countries' common border and that these difficulties are essentially connected to insecurity in the Koulikoro, Segou, and Timbuktu regions of Mali. In the face of this situation, the meeting called on the regional authorities in question to strive to overcome these difficulties.

Concerning the problem of security, while delegates expressed satisfaction with the positive results achieved in the field of border security, they called on the military authorities, area commanders, and regional military authorities to meet in the second half of October and the second half of November.

Concerning the security of persons and property, the meeting recommended the strengthening of the security network, the intensification of search operations for

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stolen cattle, and their return to owners. Another recommendation was for the improvement of the system of information exchange and the dismantling of the bases of armed bandits.

Concerning the effective demarcation of the common border, the meeting expressed the desire for the two countries to take measures to mobilize the necessary funds for the completion of the final demarcation work.

During this meeting, the problem of Malian refugees in Mauritania was examined. This enabled the Malian side to get details on the situation of these refugees, their number, and their living conditions.

In his closing address, Mohamed Lemine Salem Ould Dah [name as heard], the Mauritanian minister of interior, post and telecommunications, said this meeting afforded participants the opportunity to examine the major areas covered by bilateral cooperation agreements signed between our two countries. He added: At this meeting where our relations of friendship and fraternity have been strengthened and consolidated, we have been able to meet the permanent concern of our heads of state to further improve our bilateral ties. According to him, the political will that our two leaders have always demonstrated is an invitation to Malians and Mauritanians alike to persevere to maintain and strengthen the excellent relations that have always existed between our two peoples.

Sada Samake, the Malian minister of territorial administration and security, reports on the outcome of this meeting:

[Begin Samake recording] I believe we can consider the outcome of this meeting as globally positive. For my part, I am leaving for Bamako with a feeling of confidence and reassurance given the results we have achieved. I believe the various issues have been extensively commented on by my Mauritanian counterpart. In any case, I believe we should have more such meetings. This observation was made both by the border administrative authorities and by the ministries, and we hope to move in that direction.

As the Mauritanian minister said concerning all obscure points, particularly the issue of effective border demarcation, we had the opportunity to adopt the documents of the joint technical committee. This forms a real departure point for the definitive demarcation of our border, which is a longstanding problem. On security, we discussed the review of measures adopted by earlier meetings and we planned to work out new measures to better guarantee security along the border. [passage omitted]

I spoke about creating more security posts based on the measures we adopted in Bamako on 6 April concerning the creation of security posts along the border to promote the exchange of information and the organization of joint patrols for surveillance. In this regard, we agreed to continue to increase the number of security posts. Concerning measures that will be envisaged for the armed security forces, we plan to create and set up a machinery—a military machinery this time around—to guard the border and to prevent, as you said earlier, attacks from being carried out along the border area. [end recording]

Morocco

Explosion in Rabat; Some Damage Reported

Algiers TV Blames Internal Elements

LD1909131794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] At dawn today, a blast rocked the center of the Moroccan capital, Rabat. It caused material damage to parts of the trade center and injured a number of people. Moroccan Interior Ministry officials have refrained from making any comment.

The Moroccan democratic opposition movement [as heard] stressed yesterday that such acts, particularly recent acts in Marrakech, are being carried out by Moroccan armed groups that are dismayed at the behavior of the so-called internal opposition in Morocco, which is working on the orders of the royal palace.

Such an act reemphasizes that it stems from within Morocco, and the allegations of the Moroccan Interior Ministry find an answer to its claims by statements and facts that deny any foreign element in Morocco's problems.

Blast Said Near Army Barracks

LD1909200594 Riyadh SPA in English 1927 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sept 19, SPA—An explosion destroyed four shops on the ground floor of an apartment building next to an Army barracks in Rabat early on Monday morning.

Several people were slighty injured by the blast in the ocean residential quarter of Rabat local residents said.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately known as security bodies and civil protection personnel examined the wreckage.

Explosion Blamed on Gas Leak

LD1909134494 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] An explosion occurred at around 0330 today at a shop selling roast chicken. The shop is located in Ibrahim Raoudani Street, Ocean quarter, Rabat. Four people sustained minor injuries. Some neighboring buildings had their windows shattered by the explosion

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which was due, according to a number of eyewitnesses, to a gas leak from butane gas bottles in the shop.

Sudan

Al-Turabi Claims Involvement in Algerian Moves

EA1709152894 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The release by the Algerian authorities of the two shaykhs—Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] President Dr. Abbasi Madani and his deputy, Ali Belhadj—after a three-year detention aroused extensive reactions in Algerian circles. It was regarded as a means of dialogue to get Algeria out of its current political and security crisis.

Here in Khartoum, the headquarters of the Popular Arab and Muslim Congress, our colleague, Ba Bikr 'Uthman, met Dr. Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi, the secretary general of the Popular Arab and Muslim Congress. He asked him about the meaning of this event. Dr. al-Turabi replied by saying:

[Begin recording] [Al-Turabi] This is good and joyous news for the future of Algeria. [passage omitted] But for a long time now we have [word indistinct], particularly with the resolutions of the congress in its first and second sessions last December—it always advised that reconciliation be striven for, and that Algerian energies be mobilized so that Algeria does not quarrel and [word indistinct] in this way. We tried to reach Algeria directly and indirectly: Even to reach the sides that might influence Algeria.

News of the congress's contacts with all the parties spread (?in and around) France. I do not doubt that the meeting of the brother president of the Republic in Libya with Algerian President Zeroval also dealt with these questions. Therefore, a positive climate now has been created. What happened yesterday is the beginning of good news, because Algeria has now begun to return to tranquility, so that its energies can be mobilized and the Algerian people can express their Islamic will [words indistinct] but for reconstruction.

['Uthman] Is there a specific role for [words indistinct] the popular congress in the coming period with regard to Algeria?

[Al-Turabi] Yes. The popular congress does not represent Sudan, but it represents Muslims in the whole world. [passage omitted] Therefore, the congress has a role here. [passage omitted] God willing, we will increase the activity of our movement and we (?particularly) direct this at Algeria, in order to seize this opportunity to do good in Algeria. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Support of Ugandan Rebels Denied

EA1809172294 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Culture and Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat has said that Sudan respects the sovereignty of all neighboring countries and does not interfere in their internal affairs, based on its consistent policy. His excellency denied that Sudan has had any links with the rebels of northern Uganda. He added that Uganda's charges against Sudan about its support for the rebellion there is unfounded. He confirmed that Sudan has not undertaken any action likely to harm any neighboring state.

Chadian Prime Minister Attending Committee Talks

Meets First Vice President

EA1809165194 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic, met Chadian Prime Minister Nouradeen Delwa Kassire Koumakoye, who arrived in Khartoum yesterday. At their meeting, the two discussed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them. The official report of the joint Sudanese-Chadian committee is expected to be signed. The Chadian official will meet Police Maj. Gen. George Kongor Arop, the second vice president, today.

Joint Talks End, Statement Issued

EA1909175394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Chad and Sudan concluded their talks today with the signing of minutes of the fourth round of meetings held by the joint Sudanese-Chadian Ministerial Council. Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic, signed on behalf of Sudan, while Chadian Prime Minister Nouradeen Kassire Delwa Koumakoye signed for Chad.

A media statement issued after the signing ceremony touched on the subjects discussed during the round of talks, particularly in the political, economic, cultural and trade spheres and technical cooperation. It also touched on the results reached by both sides through political dialogue, which strongly reflects their historical relations and the depth of friendship between the two countries. Both sides agreed to hold the joint ministerial council's fifth round of meetings in the Chadian capital, Ndjamena, in 1995, on a date to be determined through diplomatic channels.

Tunisia

Libyan Envoy Delivers al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD1909211294 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] This morning at Carthage Palace, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Mr. Jadallah Azzuz al-Talhi, special envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to his excellency the president. Al-Talhi stated he had the honor of meeting

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with the head of state, and he handed him a letter from his brother the leader of the Libyan revolution. He noted that the letter was in connection with the Arab situation and inter-Arab relations. He said in this regard that he was pleased to listen to the views of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on this subject and that he would be conveying those views to his excellency's brother, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The audience took place in the presence of Mohamed Jeri, minister and director of the Presidential Office, and Libyan Ambassador 'Abd-al-'Ati al- 'Ubaydi.

Rights Official Claims Fundamentalists Tortured

LD1709102694 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] The arrest of Islamists in Tunisia has been criticized by Daniel Jacoby, chairman of the International Federation of Human Rights:

[Begin Jacobi recording] This is not the first time that this has happened. We have many examples of university lecturers and students studying in France being arrested on their return to Tunisia—on their arrival—by the Tunisian authorities. What worries us is the manner in which they are charged and sentenced. To be more precise, in most of the trials that we have monitored, we have observed that the persons were arrested as soon as they arrived in Tunisia. They were kept in police custody longer than the law stipulates. During this period, they were ill-treated and even tortured in order to obtain confessions from them. The only evidence for the charges during the public trials that our observers attended were the confessions obtained in illegal conditions.

One can understand very well that the Tunisian state wants to defend itself against the rise of fundamentalism represented by the Ennahdah party in Tunisia, but on the condition that legality is respected. [end recording]

GATT Permits Export of Most Produce

LD1509184094 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Beginning next year, 92 percent of the country's produce will be free to be exported; the remainder is a list of products that cannot be exported. Tunisia's exports, not including the energy sector, will grow by 26 percent next year. This data was reported by Slaheddine Bouguerra, the secretary of state attached to the minister of national economy, when he chaired the concluding session of the symposium on the effects of the GATT on the Tunisian economy. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

UN Deputy Secretary General Visits Refugee Camps

LD1809202694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] [Announcer] A UN delegation headed by the UN Deputy Secretary General Erik Jensen is in Western Sahara. The aim of this visit is to follow-up in the field on the lists of voters who would participate in the Saharan people's self-determination referendum. A report on the issue is with Mohamed Moukhtari:

[Moukhtari] Within the framework of following-up on the UN peace plan and supervising the first operation, which was represented by the phase of determining the identification of the Saharans in the refugee camps and Saharan towns, a UN delegation headed by UN Deputy Secretary General Erik Jensen, deputy of the UN secretary general's special representative in Western Sahara and chairman of the voter identification commission that was preparing for the referendum, arrived at the end of this week at Tindouf airport.

The aim of the latter's visit to the camps fell within the framework of acquainting himself in the field of the conditions in which the Saharan refugees are living and also to coordinate with the Minurso commission to make the material and human conditions available for the start of the second phase of this operation.

This visit led him directly to the camps in Laayoune Province where he met the Saharan commission in charge of the operation and exchanged views with them. These were mainly connected with putting the train back on the tracks and starting anew in a more comprehensive manner until the operation is concluded.

[Announcer] Radio correspondent Mohamed Moukhtari interviewed Erik Jensen on the UN mission in Western Sahara. Concerning a question about the nature of the obstacles that impeded the implementation of the UN peace plan in its first phases, Jensen answered by saying:

[Begin Jensen recording in French fading into Arabic translation] It is certain that things could happen, because the voter identification operation was not purely technical due to the fact that the issue was connected with the determination of a people's future. So, one should not make hasty decisions, because the results that ensued were of great importance. There was hope that the two sides would be convinced that the work of the UN mission was a serious, impartial, and transparent one, and they could have trust in what we were doing. [end recording]

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Kuwait

Government Said To Agree to Iraqi Move on Prisoners

LD2009134394 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Kuwait has agreed to the Iraqi initiative to form an inquiry-and-investigation committee to discuss the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners which the Kuwaiti Government claims are detained in Iraq.

In a press statement, Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim, chairman of the Kuwaiti committee for the affairs of prisoners and detainees, said that the inquiry and the search for Kuwaiti prisoners inside Iraq is the practical step for which Kuwait has been waiting.

Pakistani President Arrives on 3-Day Visit

LD1909103794 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Faruq Ahmad Khan Leghari, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and an accompanying delegation arrived at Kuwait International Airport at noon today for a three-day official visit to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Meets With Amir

LD2009105294 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, today visited his highness the amir at Bayan Palace for official talks. The minister of amiri court affairs, Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, later declared that the talks covered bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and issues of mutual interest. He added that the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere, marked by understanding and a spirit of friendship.

Investment Talks With Russia End Without Accord

LD2009102594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0929 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Kuwait City, 20 Sep (KUNA)—The fourth round of talks between Kuwait and Russia held here recently have ended without any agreement on the promotion and protection of investments in the two countries. An economic source at the Kuwaiti Finance Ministry told KUNA today that the two sides agreed to hold a fifth round of talks at a later date after all the technical aspects of the agreement have been examined.

The agreement includes 15 articles focussing on the identification of investment and investors and the promotion of investment with incentives. If signed, the agreement would be in force for a period of time ranging between 20 and 30 years. It is worth mentioning that the agreement would act as an umbrella for the protection of investments against noncommercial risks such as the payment of compensation for damage caused, for example, by acts of civil disobedience, or the freezing of assets and so on.

It is worth noting that the first round of talks was held in Kuwait in October 1989 and the second in Moscow in July 1995 [as received]. Several articles of the agreement were suspended in that second round. The third round was held again in Moscow last August.

Oman

Government Authorities Arrest, Release 'Islamists'

JN1909131894 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 13-19 Sep 94 pp 24, 29

[Text] Reports from the Sultanate of Oman say authorities have released a large number of Islamists after it has been proven beyond doubt that the Islamists possessed no weapons and harbored no intention to sow sedition. According to some sources, the arrest campaign, which included a large number of the Omani Islamic movement leaders, was launched upon information from outside the country to the effect that there was a "secret Islamic" organization plotting against the country and the authority. It is not unusual for various quarters to brand any successful Islamic movement with "plotting" in order to delude the authorities here and there into believing that there can be no accord or even truce between the Islamists and the authority.

Diplomatic sources have said the campaign, which included Omani, Jordanian, and Egyptian citizens, was unleashed upon a security tip from Egypt. An Egyptian diplomat said the Egyptian security organizations provided the Omani authorities with photos, documents, and information confirming the involvement of Sudanese and Yemeni militants in an Omani organization. The heads-up also noted possible agreement between the military and the Islamic militants in Oman after its emergence in Yemen and Sudan.

Diplomatic sources said the Egyptian gesture was an attempt to play a regional role by extending security services in light of Egypt's political, economic, and security bankruptcy. Moreover, Egypt is very annoyed by the successful diplomatic efforts Sudan is making through France to settle the Algerian crisis, and through the United States to settle the question of southern Sudan, in addition to the Egyptian political defeat during the Yemeni crisis.

Along with this security tip, there is the very sectarian structure of Omani society, which is made up of sunni and ibadhi sects. The ibadhi sect enjoys great political influence although it does not constitute a demographic majority. The sunnis, on the other hand, enjoy both a demographic majority and an economic leverage.

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A ranking source in the Omani Islamic movement has reportedly voiced optimism that the current standoff between the his movement and the Omani authorities will come to an end, pointing to the suspension of arrest and interrogation campaigns and the release of the majority of the detainees, although they remained under house arrest. The source expected Omani authorities to back down after discovering that the Islamists did not and will not use violence, that they have no external contacts, and that they care for national unity. He stressed that a real thaw has taken place recently.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the movement is convinced that the Omani Government launched its arrest campaign on the basis of specific information. He added: "They searched houses for evidence that the movement was armed. They dug up the gardens of some houses in search of weapons. Fortunately, after verifying the falsehood of the information obtained, the authorities eased the arrest and inspection campaign, and stopped storming houses. Now they call the wanted person by telephone and ask him to come for interrogation." The source said the Islamists in Oman are ready to cooperate with the state to resolve the problem.

According to an exclusive report to AL-SABIL, the arrest campaign started "at 0100 on 25 May 1994. Houses were stormed and youths were arrested and put in garbage bags. Houses were thoroughly searched and Islamic books and tapes were confiscated. Planes were used in some of the arrests, thus horrifying the citizens and terrorizing believers."

A large number of people were arrested. They included:

—Talib Miran, former commander of the Omani Air Force, who, according to Omani sources, was pensioned off early due to his Islamic inclinations. He is a resident of Muscat and is still detained.

—Ahmad al-Rasi: Oman's ambassador in Washington. He was summoned in early June for investigation and was then arrested. Now he is under house arrest. He is from the al-Sharqiyah region of Oman and had earlier served as ambassador to Italy.

—Musallam Salim al-Q[illegible]in: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture. He is from Dhofar. He completed his higher education in the United States.

—Khamis al-Kayyumi: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, from the Batin area. He is a graduate of the civil engineering faculty at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh.

—Engineer Khalid Hilal al-Hashimi, an employee at the Ministry of Education. He is still detained.

—Muhammad al-Ghazali, Hamid al-Ghazali, and Salim al-Ghazali. The latter, Salim, is a well-known merchant whose stores were sealed off and some of his workers were arrested. This family is accused of being the main financier of the organization. Gulf sources in Dubai and Kuwait say that Salim al-Ghazali used to regularly send donations averaging $350,000 a year for charitable activities by Gulf societies. His brother Hamid is a member of the Chamber of Commerce. There is another Salim al-Ghazali, their cousin, who was a former minister of industry and trade, but he has nothing to do with this affair and has not been pursued.

—A captain of a warship, whose name was not disclosed. He and other crewmen were interrogated.

—Muhammad al-Ghilani, a physician and a university professor.

—Hafiz al-Rajihi, an active preacher in al-Sharqiyah.

A number of Egyptian and Jordanian university professors were also arrested. Most prominent among them was Dr. Baha'-al-Din Khayri, a professor in the faculty of engineering, who is still under house arrest. He was not allowed to travel home despite his appeals.

The Omani Islamic official said he could not identify a specific reason for the campaign. He said that "all that is currently being said is mere interpretation and analysis." He added: "Our activity was confined to preaching Islamic teachings, but we had our own opinions about political and social issues in Oman. We used to spell out our positions in meetings with the brethren, and used to issue a newsletter of limited distribution. It seems that one of these newsletters was one of the reasons that attracted the attention of the Omani authorities and incited them to deal their latest blow to the movement."

He added: "Last April, the movement issued a newsletter to its members spelling out its position on holding the development conference that was attended by Israeli officials within the context of the peace process. The Israelis had formal and private meetings with some senior state officials. The movement expressed its rejection of these meetings and called on its members to confront the process of normalization between Oman and Israel, and to enlighten the public about the dangers of this process. It is known that a large number of the detainees are mosque preachers and imams."

The leading Omani figure believes that this newsletter got into the hands of the Omani authorities, which carried out the first arrests on Saturday, 29 May, in Muscat, Dhofar, and al-Buraymi. The suspected leaders of the organization were arrested. He added: "The campaign was violent and most of the roundups were made after midnight under horrible circumstances. The houses were surrounded and helicopters overflew the area. It seemed as if they feared armed resistance from the brethren, but none of that happened. They also searched houses thoroughly; they even dug up some gardens. It seemed that they were told that we had arms caches." He said: "The security forces were very careful to collect all

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books and papers in every house, but the arrests gradually eased. The security forces now summon on the phone whoever they want for interrogation."

It is known that Omani authorities do not permit the establishment of charity and social societies, like the Islah [reform] societies in Kuwait. Moreover, lectures and cultural seminars are organized on a very limited scale and under the state's direct supervision.

Spokesman: Refugees' Weapons Returned to Yemen

JN1709132994 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] A Defense Ministry spokesman has announced that all weapons and other pieces of equipment held by Yemeni refugees have been delivered to a Yemeni military delegation that arrived in the sultanate for this purpose.

These weapons were transported on Yemeni military airplanes and Yemeni military ships that left the sultanate with all their equipment this morning on their way to the sisterly Republic of Yemen.

Foreign Under Secretary Leaves for PRC, DPRK

JN1809190794 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Muscat, Sept 18 (GNA)—The Omani Foreign Under Secretary for Political Affairs Sayyid Haytham Bin-Tariq Al Sa'id left Muscat for China today on a four-day official visit to attend meetings of the joint Omani-Chinese committee due to be held in Beijing.

During the visit the Omani official will also hold talks with a number of senior Chinese officials on bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

After China, Al Sa'id will visit North Korea and Thailand to discuss with officials there means of enhancing bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

Qatar

Sudanese Minister Visits, Discusses Relations

EA1709163594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Summary] The minister of state at the presidency of the Republic, Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, met during his visit to Qatar Crown Prince Shaykh Hamad Bin Khalifah. Dr. Salah al-Din delivered a message from the Sudanese first vice president, Major General al- Zubayr Muhammad Salih, to the crown prince regarding bilateral relations. Dr. Salah al-Din also met a number of ministers and senior officials from Qatar, and discussed relations with them between the two countries and ways of developing them.

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Briefed on GCC, Arab Ministers Meetings

LD1909200894 Riyadh SPA in English 1918 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Jeddah, Sept 19, SPA—Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz on Monday afternoon presided the weekly regular session held by the Council of Ministers at al-Salam palace in Jeddah.

Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) afterwards that at the beginning of the meeting, the cabinet reviewed political and information reports on the most important and latest Arab and international events.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister briefed the council on the outcome of the recent session held by the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Ministerial Council in Riyadh and gave a summary on the outcome of the meeting held by the Arab foreign ministers in Cairo last week.

Al-Sha'ir added that Crown Prince 'Abdallah shed light on the policy of the government of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz towards the peace process in the Middle East. He highlighted the constant efforts being made by King Fahd to accelerate the peace process since the conference of Madrid in 1992.

He recalled the positive contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the multilateral talks and the orders of King Fahd for allocation of 100 million dollars to help in setting up development projects to improve the living conditions of the Palestinians of the occupied territories.

Crown prince also underlined the latest assurance of the Kingdom on the matter, particularly the remarks made by King Fahd that the Kingdom will put all possible capabilities at the disposal of negotiators for establishment of a just and durable peace and the Kingdom's support of the Kingdom to the peace initiatives reached by the Palestinians and Jordanians with Israel. [sentence as received]

Referring to local items discussed by the cabinet today, al- Sha'ir said the cabinet gave the green light to the Ministry of Communication to take part as a member in a program for conduction of international road research documents organized by the International Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The cabinet also approved plans presented by the Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal for appointment of 'Abd-al illah Bin-'Ali al-Mohanna and Hamid Bin Mohammed 'Ali as ambassadors at grade 15 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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British Prime Minister John Major Visits

Praises Relations

LD1909202894 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] British Prime Minister John Major has described his talks with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, as excellent and said that he was pleased that they are so. He expressed his happiness at being in Saudi Arabia and affirmed that whatever the discussions might be relations between the two countries would remain close and strong. In a statement he made before meeting British businessmen in Jeddah today, Mr. Major said that he had discussed with the custodian of the two holy mosques issues pertaining to Iran, Yemen, as well as regional and international issues. He said that they focussed on the strengthening of the bilateral long-standing relations that are originally strong.

Answering a question on the current trend of the Saudi economy, he said: I believe that currently there are economic difficulties throughout the world, and I believe that the Saudis have managed to deal with this in an excellent manner. He added: The change in oil prices had its repercussions; I believe that Britain does not doubt the strength of the Saudi economy or the Saudi market. At any rate, I have no doubt whatsoever about the long-term strength of the Saudi economy, which is ready for strong trade relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom. He stressed that he had no fears in this connection.

Concludes Visit

LD1909114594 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1122 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 19 Sep—British Prime Minister John Major left Jeddah this afternoon after a two-day official visit to the kingdom.

The British prime minister was seen off at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by the His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

UK Prime Minister Major Carries Out Brief Visit

Welcomed by Officials

JN1909173094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Sep (WAKH)—British Prime Minister John Major arrived here today on a brief visit to the United Arab Emirates.

On hand to welcome him upon his arrival were Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister, and other state officials.

Mr. Major is scheduled to have talks with President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates about regional issues, Gulf security, and the Middle East peace process, as well as bilateral ties.

Meets With Shaykh Zayid, Departs

JN2009064394 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0505 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met in Abu Dhabi today with British Prime Minister John Major. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

The Emirates News Agency cited an official source as saying that the two sides discussed the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East in light of the latest developments in the international arena and their repercussions on the Arab region. The official source added that the two sides also discussed a number of regional and international issues, including the Middle East peace process and ways to find fair and appropriate solutions. The source said that they also reviewed the strong ties of cooperation and friendship between the UAE and Britain and ways to reinforce and develop them.

The UAE president adorned British Prime Minister John Major with the al-Ittihad sash in appreciation of his efforts to support and develop friendly ties between the UAE and the United Kingdom to serve the common interests of both people and the mutual benefits of both countries.

[Manama WAKH in Arabic at 0520 GMT on 20 September reports that Major left Abu Dhabi on the evening of 19 September after a visit of several hours to the UAE]

Yemen

Salih Urges 'Decisive' YSP Stand Toward Leaders Abroad

JN1809210794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faysal Makram from Sanaa]

[Excerpt] Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has asked the members of the new Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] to take a "final and decisive stand toward the YSP leaders abroad," saying that those leaders "had worked to undermine Yemeni unity by conspiring and declaring secession—something that amounts to premeditated war."

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He added: "The option of secession cannot be overlooked by the people and the legitimate Armed Forces."

At a meeting with the new YSP leadership, which was elected in Sanaa, President Salih said: "Interfering in the affairs of the YSP or any other party is a violation of democracy. However, it is difficult for the YSP to put its house in order once again and to engage in positive political action unless it recalculates, reconciles with the people, and proves that it is worthy of assuming its role in the local arena. If it fails to do so, it will be taken to task by the masses, and the position of the rebellious, secessionist leaders shall be viewed as that of the entire YSP."

The meeting between 'Ali Salih and the YSP leadership was held the day before yesterday [13 September] in the evening, as part of the efforts of the YSP's new leadership to normalize its situation in the country.

Yahya Mansur Abu-Isba', member of the newly elected YSP Political Bureau, said "the Political Bureau has briefed President 'Ali Salih on the outcome of the recent session of the YSP Central Committee."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday, Abu-Isba' added that the new Political Bureau "discussed with the president the question of normalizing the situation. We have asked that the YSP be allowed to operate again by restoring its headquarters, capabilities, and financial assets that had been seized. The president had previously promised us that he would support the party's legitimate leadership as soon as it sees daylight." [passage omitted]

Spokesman Criticizes Remarks by UK's Major

JN1909183594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] An official Yemeni spokesman has voiced regret and surprise over a statement attributed to British Prime Minister John Major following a meeting he had with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia last night. Major said he was satisfied with the way Riyadh and London cooperated during the Yemeni crisis and that it was important that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih honor a commitment to promote reconciliation between north and south Yemen.

While we recognize that Britain has interests to advance, it is no grounds for it to meddle in Yemen's domestic affairs. Those who press for reconciliation between the so-called north and south in Yemen should be equally anxious about reconciliation between the north and south and east and west of the United Kingdom. As for the Yemeni people, who, depending on their free will and belief in their unity and democratic option and constitutional legitimacy, they can sort out their affairs without external interference. We do not think that the British prime minister can deny Yemen its independence, sovereignty, and democratic tradition, based on a system of political pluralism and respect for human rights.

Libyan Envoy Delivers Letter to Salih, Departs

JN1909133694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received brother Abu- Zayd 'Umar Durdah, assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress and envoy of brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September revolution.

Durdah conveyed to the brother chairman a letter from his brother Col. al-Qadhdhafi. The letter contains an invitation from the fraternal Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to hold an Arab summit in order to clear the Arab atmosphere and achieve Arab reconciliation in a way that will enable our Arab nation to face the current challenges and dangers.

Brother Durdah left Sanaa today. [passage omitted]

The Libyan envoy told the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', that he handed the brother chairman of the Presidential Council a letter from his brother Col. al-Qadhdhafi, and that the language of dialogue and discussion was the same. Views were identical on all issues discussed, he added.

Durdah said Salih's reply to the letter's contents was positive and sound. [passage omitted]

New YSP Leader Muqbil Discusses Issues

MM1609164194 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Sep 94 p 4

[Interview with YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salih 'Abbad Muqbil by 'Abd-al-Nasir Mujalli in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mujalli] Now that the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has been restructured, what are your prospects as a new leadership?

[Muqbil] I believe that after the Central Committee elections the Political Bureau elected by the recent session will follow up the resolutions adopted at the Central Committee meeting, first and foremost preparing for the fourth general congress in order to assess the war and secession that afflicted unity, and also to determine the future path. Of course, there are other decisions which should be made vis-a-vis the YSP's view of what should be done now that the war has ended. In other words, it should repair its relations with all political forces in Yemen.

[Mujalli] And when will the party's fourth congress be held?

[Muqbil] That depends on the stipulations of the resolutions adopted at the session, namely within a maximum of one year and a minimum of six months from now.

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And we hope the leadership will hold the congress on the date specified in the resolutions adopted at the session. [passage omitted]

[Mujalli] Do you not believe that your election as YSP secretary general could cause a split in the party through some ambitious members because you publicly reject the principle of war and secession?!

[Muqbil] Obviously anything is possible. We operate within Yemen as a whole. If there is anyone who has a different view or a policy different from the policy we are pursuing, we is bound—whether we like it or not—to find ourselves holding diametrically opposed positions.

[Mujalli] As the party's new secretary general, what is your view of the party in its new shape, how do you view its future, what mechanism is it adopting, and how is it interacting with the other parties on the scene?

[Muqbil] The YSP is an old party and has its deep roots in social life. It should begin to work to feel its way once again in order to operate within the the aims and principles it advocates and for the sake of which it has fought for decades.

[Mujalli] What about your ambitions as the party's leader?

[Muqbil] Believe me, my only ambition is to restore cohesion to the party, renew the party within the framework of Yemen, and work for the sake of the Yemeni people. [passage omitted]

[Mujalli] President Salih said recently that your participation in the next government is impossible before you rectify and organize your position, because you have not declared a clear position on the leaders of the secession. How do you in the YSP view that statement, and is there a real opportunity to initiate a dialogue with the [General People's] Congress, the Reform Grouping, and the other parties? And what are your conditions for that?

[Mujalli] At our extraordinary session we agreed not to return to the tripartite coalition. We are for a broadly based national government in which all parties on the Yemeni scene participate.

[Mujalli] Including the YSP?

[Muqbil] All the parties. And as I told you, we are for a national government in which all the political forces participate. If the Congress and the Reform Grouping respond to this, fine. But if the Congress agrees to the participation of the YSP only, we will refuse to participate.

[Mujalli] Why?

[Muqbil] Because we do not want to enter a tripartite coalition again. We are for a national government in which everyone participates. [passage omitted]

House Forms Constitutional Amendment Committee

JN1909134094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The House of Representatives held an ordinary session under Speaker brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar this morning. Discussions continued on the constitutional amendments submitted to the House. In today's session, a special parliamentary committee, comprising 18 House members, was set up to consider the observations, ideas, and proposals the brother members raised in the House's general sessions during the second parliamentary term regarding these amendments. [passage omitted]

The committee held a meeting under House Speaker al-Ahmar today. In this meeting, the committee worked out the general framework of its work, which will speed up the completion of its mission. The House will resume meetings on Saturday [24 September], God willing.

Southern Alliance To Work for 'National Reconciliation'

MM2009083994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah: "Al-Jifri to Lead Opposition Alliance Abroad"]

[Excerpts] London—'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, who was vice president in the Democratic Republic of Yemen proclaimed during the civil war, has spoken of preparations for the formation of a southern opposition alliance abroad.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-Jifri said that the aim of the southern alliance, which will be formed soon and will include political parties, patriotic forces, and political figures, is to rectify the course of and restore respect for south Yemen and the city of Aden.

Al-Jifri said that the alliance would open its doors for the absorption of the forces of good in Yemen to work for comprehensive national reconciliation.

According to southern political sources, a number of [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] officials will joint the alliance, which is expected to be led by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri as leader of the Sons of Yemen League. [passage omitted]

'Abdallah al-Asnaj, one of the south Yemeni leaders outside Sanaa, has urged acceptance of national reconciliation incorporating all Yemeni parties and figures who insist on their political and constitutional rights and their right to uphold the principle of respect for the constitution, the exercise of democracy, partisan pluralism, and human rights without retreat, reservation, or deception. [passage omitted]

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Paper Condemns 'Flagrant' Saudi 'Interference'

JN1909113194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Sanaa, 19 Sep (INA)—The Yemeni newspaper AL-THAWRAH has vehemently denounced recent Saudi statements as flagrant interference in the internal affairs of an independent and sovereign state.

In an article published here today, the paper ridiculed Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal's statements which called for returning home the secessionists who are responsible for the havoc wreaked in the recent Yemeni war. It says: Saudi Arabia adopted the Yemeni secessionists' cause and is currently reviving their political presence, which has actually vanished.

The paper emphasizes that Saudi Arabia has placed itself on the brink of political decline and contradictions. It has found itself lonely and in conflict with the Arab and international consensus on the need to establish unity and enhance reconstruction.

The Yemeni paper adds that the current Saudi position has moved from the phase of involvement in the secessionist war to a phase of political impasse after Yemeni unity triumphed. It advises the Saudi regime's men to hold a constructive dialogue with the Islamic men of religion instead of arresting them, or with the Saudi opposition in general in order to achieve reconciliation and security in Saudi Arabia instead of giving advice to Yemen and interfering in its internal affairs.

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Editorials Oppose U.S. Position on Haiti

'Defiance' of U.S. 'Tyranny' Lauded

JN1909111594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said the Haitian defiance of U.S. tyranny once again confirms that the Iraqi lesson of courageously confronting U.S. aggression and hegemony has inspired peoples fighting for their freedom, dignity, and national independence.

In an analysis today, the paper, mouthpiece of the ruling Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that the Iraqi lesson has also clearly shown that U.S. tyranny is not a destiny that cannot be confronted. This was confirmed by the deeds of the glorious Iraqis in the immortal Mother of Battles.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the strong opposition by war criminal Bush to any U.S. invasion of Haiti, on the pretext that there are no strategic U.S. interests there, again reveals the objectives of the savage aggression launched and led by the Bush administration against Iraq on 17 January 1991. This aggression sought to secure strategic U.S. interests in the entire Arab region and not only in Iraq.

The paper says Bush also wanted to say that all the colorful pretexts and slogans his administration used as pretexts for its fierce war of aggression against Iraq, such as implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and protecting human rights, were only feeble covers for the aggression and could not conceal the real U.S. objectives.

AL-THAWRAH adds that both the aggression on Iraq and the invasion of Haiti have clearly demonstrated U.S. tendencies toward aggression, belligerence, and arrogance. However, among the prominent substantive differences between the aggression and invasion is the lack of strategic U.S. interests in Haiti and the fact that the Clinton administration has expressed a desire to hold an emergency session for the Security Council on the day Haiti is invaded in order to lift all economic and trade sanctions against it, whereas the U.S. Administration still insists on continuing the unfair blockade imposed on the Iraqi people despite the passage of approximately four years since the U.S. aggression on Iraq.

Concluding its analysis, AL-THAWRAH says: Despite its savagery and brutality, the aggression on Iraq has failed to achieve its objectives.

Invasion Part of 'Policy To Enslave'

JN2009094194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—BABIL newspaper emphasizes that the U.S. invasion of Haiti has exposed Clinton's lies when he said he ordered his warplanes to return to their bases after the agreement with the current Haitian rulers.

In an article published today, the newspaper says: The Americans invaded Haiti and the agreement with Clinton's envoy did not prevent them from fully implementing the invasion plan in spite of the blatant inequality between the two countries.

It adds: The Americans have been hasty in their actual invasion of Haiti with the aim of proving the reality of their aggressive policy, and their insistence on implementing it after Clinton paved the way for it when he said he will not allow hostile regimes to be set up near the United States.

BABIL says the scenario of the aggression against Iraq was similar to the aggression committed against Haiti despite the obvious differences. The aggression proved that the theatrical dispatch of [former UN Secretary General Javier Perez] de Cuellar [to Iraq in January 1991] was the same as the theatrical dispatch of Carter; both served as warnings of aggressions.

It emphasizes that the 30-state aggression against Iraq would have taken place under any circumstances or conditions because the U.S. tyrant had hidden, premeditated intentions.

It stresses that the hegemonic U.S. policy and the tyrant's policy to enslave peoples have been exposed, and that free will is stronger than anything else.

'Aggressions' Likened To Gulf War

JN2009091094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH newspaper has emphasized that the U.S. military occupation of Haiti reflects the aggressive U.S. policy that attacks the aspirations and free will of peoples trying to realize their sovereignty and independence.

In an article published today, the newspaper, which specializes in military affairs, said the U.S. military occupation [of Haiti] represents a blatant example of the use of force to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. This occupation exposes the false allegations the U.S. Administration make about its eagerness to realize what it calls freedom and human rights.

It adds: What is ridiculous and what exposes the U.S. occupation and its objectives is that this occupation took place in spite of the agreement reached with the Haitian rulers, in which they agreed to reinstate Aristide and agreed to relinquish power.

AL-QADISIYAH says: All this proves that the Americans plot to launch aggressions against peoples in advance, and that their aggressions will take place whether the other party accepts the U.S. tyrant's conditions or not.

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The newspaper speaks about the accurate Iraqi analysis of the reasons and background of political crises in the world, which was proven by the developments in Haiti, which showed that the Americans cannot come up with position other than continuing deception until the end to cover up their intentions, although the invasion and aggression had been decided beforehand.

It adds that the mission of former President Carter is identical to that of [former UN Secretary General Javier Perez] de Cuellar when he came to Baghdad, and was only a cover for the aggression that had been decided in advance.

The newspaper said what confirms this is U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's statement that what happened in Haiti is the best evidence on the use of force in the service of diplomacy.

The paper adds: The U.S. concept of diplomacy is military occupation by force and military landing by helicopters. This is diplomacy, and nothing else will count!

It stresses that current events confirm that the 30-state aggression against Iraq had been planned and studied in advance regardless of the developments that preceded it. It would have taken place in all circumstances and conditions, no matter what the Iraqi position had been.

LONDON TIMES Cited on Saudi 'Oppression'

JN1609122494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Sep 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by 'Adil Sa'd: "The Regime of Evil and Corruption"]

[Text] For the Saudi regime to be described as the epitome of oppression, corruption, evil, torture, and persecution all over the world; for that regime to be given all these descriptions by the London TIMES, means the stench of Saudi corruption is now nauseating and that the friends of that backward regime can no longer cover up its crimes.

It is obvious that the Saudi regime is merely an agent, a betrayer of all spiritual and ethical values. It uses a religious facade as a smokescreen to entrench its aggressiveness, ugliness, and blatant domination over the sanctities and resources of the nation, thereby pleasing its imperialist and racist Zionist masters.

Turning Hafr al-Batin into a base for the 30-state aggression on Iraq and using the Saudi treasury to finance that aggression and back the unfair blockade, committing crimes and physical liquidations against the free men of Hijaz, Najd and al-Ahsa' in horrific prison dungeons and persecuting their families, withholding the right of free expression and the right to question policies, and permitting Arab wealth to deteriorate from a position of regional power to servility, humbly begging for loans from U.S and world banks; all these would not have happened if not for the plan that ordered the Saudi regime to commit all those crimes, led by the aggression on Iraq and the torture of the Arab people, a development that has revealed the true nature and policy of that regime.

Finally, one must wonder: How can the Saudi regime be such a servile agent while its corruption is being revealed by the very parties that use it to achieve these odious aims?

The only explanation is that these parties are now strongly aware of the danger threatening the Saudi regime and the burden it constitutes for them. So, fearing a general public upheaval, and in an effort to preempt that upheaval, they have started publishing more reports about the corruption of the Saudis to clear the way for a political change in that regime that will be an acceptable replacement for the current head of the Saudi regime and at the same time respond to the needs of the U.S. octopus in the coming phase.

French Parliamentary Delegation Visits

Met by Vice President

JN2009075894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that the continued iniquitous blockade against the people of Iraq contravenes international agreements and the UN resolutions, in addition to the injustice they involve. After receiving a French parliamentary delegation led by (Jano Lakaz), member of the French National Assembly and member of the European Parliament, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the states executing the U.S. policy have hurt their peoples' political, economic, and international interests.

The vice president said that the Iraqis, under leader President Saddam Husyan, are confronting the economic aggression with resolve to continue work and reconstruction. He reviewed the strategic projects that have been achieved under the circumstances of the blockade. He said those projects reflect the ability of Iraqi strugglers to abort the unjust economic aggression.

The head and members of the French parliamentary delegation indicated that the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the blockade is felt by the world public. They emphasized the readiness of French companies to execute projects in Iraq. They expressed great confidence in the future and strength of the Iraqi economy in view of Iraq's abounding human and material resources.

Received by Foreign Minister

JN2009081294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today received the visiting French political and parliamentary delegation under (Jano Lakaz), member of the French National Assembly and member of the European Parliament.

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During the meeting, the minister stressed the importance of relations between Iraq and France and the need to promote them at all levels to provide solid grounds for exerting further efforts to lift the iniquitous blockade imposed on Iraq. He said that the necessary factors for enhancing coordination between Iraq and France at the UN Security Council exist and can lead to a response to the Iraqi-French stand calling for the UN Security Council to honor its obligations toward Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, and its legal interpretation, since Iraq has honored all its obligations toward that paragraph.

The head and members of the French delegation expressed France's genuine desire to promote bilateral relations with Iraq and to restore their distinguished past in a manner that achieves mutual benefits for the two countries. Members of the delegation said they hoped that the French stand will develop in favor in Iraq to promote Iraq's international efforts to lift the unjust embargo. They expressed solidarity with the Iraqi people and the hope that the blockade on the Iraq people will be lifted as soon as possible.

Libya Said Encouraging Emigration of Experts

JN2009081594 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 4

[Text] A ranking Iraqi official has accused the Libyan Government of encouraging the emigration of Iraqi expertise and talent to Libya. The official, who declined to reveal his name, said that Libya is paying an estimated $1,000 a month to anyone who accepts an offer to work there in the fields of science and technology.

Ears of 780 Army Deserters Said Amputated

NC1709140894 Paris AFP in English 1326 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept 17 (AFP)—The Iraqi authorities have punished 780 army deserters by cutting their ears off, a Tehran-based Iraqi opposition group said Saturday [17 September].

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said the ears of 300 people in al-Basrah, 250 in al-Nasiriyah and 230 in al-Amarah—all provinces in southeastern Iraq—had been cut off.

Several of the prisoners had died from massive bleeding, it said in a statement.

The measure had met with considerable resistance in several Iraqi cities, SAIRI said.

Four doctors were arrested in AL-Nasiriyah for refusing to inflict the punishment. Three of them were named as "Dr. Rabi' 'Abd-al-Hadi, Dr. Yahya Rajab Khafaji and Dr. 'Isam." The fourth was described only as the head of Suq al-Shuyukh hospital in al- Nasiriyah.

SAIRI said the order was issued on August 27 and published in Iraqi newspapers.

Opposition Leader Accuses Regime of Rocket Attack

MM2009082794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "North Iraq: Attempt to Assassinate Leader of Opposition National Congress Fails"]

[Excerpt] London—Ahmad al-Jalabi, chairman of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, has been exposed to an assassination attempt. A rocket was fired at his motorcade near his residence in Salah al-Din in northern Iraq.

A statement issued by the National Congress accused "the regime of the Iraqi dictator" of the attempt, which occurred on Saturday night/Sunday morning when a rocket was fired at a motorcade escorting him near his residence. The rocket failed to hit its target. It hit the building housing the television station belonging to the National Congress. It penetrated a wall and exploded inside a bathroom. There were no casualties.

Al-Jalabi told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that he had arrived in his residence before the motorcade. "I was talking on the telephone and suddenly felt a shock followed by an explosion." He added that the explosion was heard throughout Salah al-Din, which is some 20 km north of Irbil.

Al-Jalabi accused Baghdad's agents of the assassination attempt. He said that units comprising 500 elements began immediately to comb a valley near the incident site where the perpetrators are believed to have hidden and whence they fled in a vehicle after firing the rocket.

Al-Jalabi believes that the attempt reflects Baghdad's reaction to the increase in the National Congress' and the popular opposition's activities against the Iraqi regime.

He pointed out that "more than 17 explosions have occurred in Baghdad over the past month alone—which points to a breakdown in security." He said that "the most recent explosions occurred on 7 September and were caused by two booby-trapped cars in two areas of Baghdad—one in front of an office belonging to the ruling Ba'th Party in Baghdad." [passage omitted]

SAIRI Reports 2 Officials Killed in Baghdad

NC1909164294 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] The Kurdistan office of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] issued a statement on 16 September saying that armed revolutionaries in Baghdad have killed two officials of the 'Aflaqite regime. Intelligence service Major Qasim Muhammad al-'Ali and Ba'th Party official Nasif Matar were liquidated in the bank quarter of Baghdad.

The statement also notes the masses' increasing indignation at Saddam's regime. A state of panic prevails among the regime's henchmen [words indistinct].

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Peres on Peace With Syria, Nuclear Weapons

NC2009091594 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 17 Sep 94 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Sana' al-Sa'id in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] Israel's use of the expression "possible withdrawal from the Golan" implies that it is determined to win peace, land, and security at one and the same time.

[Peres] On the contrary. It is Israel who will give up land to others. This is what it had done earlier with Egypt and later with the Palestinians, when it gave them Gaza and Jericho. In no instance throughout history did a state that occupies a land take the initiative of giving land to others with nothing in return.

[Al-Sa'id] You are not giving this land in charity or out of generosity. This land does not belong to Israel. The rights had to be returned to those entitled to them.

[Peres] You should not forget that we took this land after Arabs had committed aggression against us. It is the Arabs who attacked us. If it were not for that, none of that would have happened.

[Al-Sa'id] Logic dictates that to show your goodwill, you are required today to announce a full withdrawal from the Golan within a short period. Golan is no bigger than 1,200 square kilometers. You cannot withdraw at the rate of a few kilometers every year.

[Peres] We were attacked from the Golan three times in the past. We do not want to be subjected to another attack. What is needed is certain security measures, provided that peace is real. We cannot subject ourselves to another attack. We did not attack the Syrians. It was the Syrians who attacked us. We have to make sure that this will not happen again.

[Al-Sa'id] In light of Christopher's tour of the region, will there be new ideas put forward by Israel?

[Peres] I believe that the problem does not lie in the need for new ideas. It is how we negotiate that matters. We are eager to negotiate with Syria in the same way we did with Egypt, the Palestinians, and the Jordanians. In other words, negotiations should be at two levels: A public level, particularly since we are the state that declared its desire to achieve peace; and the secret level, through which all outstanding problems can be resolved. But the Syrians have rejected both levels. This is the big mistake, because if we fail to run negotiations correctly, we will not be able to achieve positive results.

[Al-Sa'id] What about Christopher's tour? What new developments can push the Syrian track ahead?

[Peres] Syria has to decide whether it wants peace or not. So far, it is Israel who has been giving without getting anything in return. Israel needs concrete peace and goodwill. Peace is a pledge and a bond. Let us not forget that Golan is a land; it is a concrete thing. What we get in return must be as concrete.

[Al-Sa'id] You say that withdrawal from the Golan will be put to a local referendum. I am wondering; when was the land of others the subject of a referendum or a legislation in another state by which other people's lands are usurped?

[Peres] First of all, the referendum is not on the soil of Golan, but on Israel's withdrawal from it.

[Al-Sa'id] But it is Syrian territory.

[Peres] The referendum is on the Israeli army's withdrawal from the Golan.

[Al-Sa'id] But Syria is the owner of Golan. Accordingly, what Israel says about the referendum is null and void.

[Peres] Syria will continue to be the owner of the land if it does not attack Israel. We are talking about our security and not about their land. There is a big difference.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel has gained a lot under the umbrella of peace. Over 40 states have restored diplomatic ties with it. Arabs gained nothing.

[Peres] Arabs gained nothing from war. On the contrary, the war was costly; they lost both lives and land. There is no war now. Peace is the issue and, as such, it is a gain for all. There will be no loss of souls or children. There will be no failure in war, since we are not fighting a war. The Arabs have gained international economic support. Egypt gained, and so did Jordan. The Palestinians obtained $2 billions from donor states.

[Al-Sa'id] Why does Israel ignore the fact that the key to real peace lies in its full withdrawal from the Arab territories as a whole?

[Peres] Do you mean that we should withdraw from Israel?

[Al-Sa'id] What I mean is that you withdraw from the Arab territories as a whole, particularly from the Golan.

[Peres] We were not in these territories in the first place, yet they attacked us. They attacked us from Syria, Gaza, Egypt, and Jordan.

[Al-Sa'id] Are we not talking about the past?

[Peres] If you want to build the region's future, it should then be far removed from the dangers of war and we should devote ourselves to development and economic cooperation.

[Al-Sa'id] You are always focusing on extremism and terrorism in your talk but forgetting that it was Israel that created extremism through its policy in the region.

[Peres] We have nothing to do with extremism. What is happening in Algeria is not of our creation. The same applies to what is happening in Iran and Iraq.

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[Al-Sa'id] How can we be sure of this, especially as some people have accused Israel of being behind the terrorism in Egypt and of being behind the damage to tourism?

[Peres] This is drivel and nonsense. The deluded ones are all over the world and we cannot give an answer to what these deluded people are saying.

[Al-Sa'id] Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, said this during his recent visit to Egypt.

[Peres] Is Israel behind Birri's war against Christians and Muslims in Lebanon? Are we responsible for the ethnic and sectarian wars in Lebanon? This is nonsense and humbug. Those who are saying so lack reason and logic and are talking according to what goes on in their minds.

[Al-Sa'id] What is the exact name for Israel's practices against Lebanon: the shelling, killing, and destruction? Is this not terrorism and piracy?

[Peres] When I was prime minister, I withdrew the Israeli army from all Lebanese territories and from Beirut. We were attacked when we were not there. Now with the small security strip, they are still attacking us. We have told the Lebanese that we do not covet their lands or waters and that we do not want to play a role in their politics or interfere in their affairs. We are ready to give them back the land quickly if they show their ability to prevent terrorism. We have absolutely no demands in Lebanon. Regrettably, Lebanon is not independent but is in the Syrian sphere of influence.

[Al-Sa'id] Lebanon is independent and the Syrians are there as a result of a legitimate Lebanese request?

[Peres] No. Lebanon is not independent, as evidenced by the fact that Syrian President al-Asad told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that no agreement can be concluded with Lebanon without Syria and that Lebanon is part of the Syrian negotiations.

[Al-Sa'id] Is it for this reason that Israel recently tried to drive a wedge between Lebanon and Syria when it attempted to deal with Lebanon separately?

[Peres] We are negotiating separately with a Lebanese delegation. These negotiations have not moved forward yet. This is proof that they are following the Syrian line. I have past experience of negotiating with Lebanon. I negotiated with Christians and Muslims in Lebanon. Sectarian conflicts prevail over this country and it should be united to be strong and have independence. I reiterate that we have no demands in Lebanon and we will withdraw if they prove their ability to prevent terrorism.

[Al-Sa'id] What Hizballah is practicing is not terrorism but a legitimate resistance resulting from the presence of the Israeli occupation.

[Peres] Hizballah attacked us even before we occupied Lebanon. We were not there and yet Hizballah attacked us as a terrorist organization. Lebanon became a center for the terrorist elements, be they Hizballah, 'Arafat, or Hawatimah [leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine]. That is why we had to attack them. We cannot withdraw unless we are certain of Lebanon's ability to stop terrorism.

[Al-Sa'id] Would you withdraw if there were guarantees from the United States?

[Peres] The United States cannot give guarantees for this.

[Al-Sa'id] Are Syria's and Lebanon's guarantees enough for you?

[Peres] No one can give us guarantees.

[Al-Sa'id] President al-Hirawi said that if Israel withdraws from Lebanon, he can send 25,000 troops to south Lebanon to ensure that no single shot is fired against Israel

[Peres] Why doesn't he send them now and curb Hizballah activity and then we can pull out of Lebanon? We cannot take risks.

[Al-Sa'id] The Arabs have made many concessions.

[Peres] What are these concessions?

[Al-Sa'id] Many concessions, and you know them well. You have gained a great deal: enhanced relations, strength, and unilateral possession of a nuclear arsenal.

[Peres] We have gained nothing. All we have achieved we have done by ourselves.

[Al-Sa'id] What you have achieved came as a result of your aggressive policy in the region.

[Peres] We wouldn't have done anything in the region if we had not been attacked. They attacked us five times. We were fought against even before we established a state in 1948. We were attacked despite the UN resolution on partition. Had they accepted the partition resolution, the situation would have been different and a Palestinian state would have existed now in most of the Israeli territories. They rejected the resolution. Why? I don't know.

We were a minority on our own without arms at the time and we had no choice but to build our strength. Although we have won the war, we still aspire for peace and return the land.

[Al-Sa'id] What do you want from Syria specifically?

[Peres] We want President al-Asad to use the same language as President al-Sadat.

[Al-Sa'id] There is no need for comparisons as everyone has his own psychological structure.

[Peres] We are comparing between two policies not characters.

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[Al-Sa'id] Syrian public opinion may not accept what the Egyptians accepted.

[Peres] We are not trying to change the Syrian psychology but want to hear distinctly from the Syrian leaders that they want peace.

[Al-Sa'id] This is what President al-Asad confirmed at his summit with Clinton in Geneva in January 1994.

[Peres] President al-Asad confirmed nothing. When he was asked about this point, it was Clinton who gave the answer while al-Asad kept silent, which was awkward.

I wonder why President al-Asad didn't answer the question on peace. We were hoping for negotiations in public because peace is not shameful so that we shun it and because people want to know if Syria is truly working for peace.

[Al-Sa'id] Syria is working for peace and the Washington talks are public and a proof of that.

[Peres] The Washington talks remain limited.

[Al-Sa'id] But the talks are held between two delegations.

[Peres] The negotiator in Washington doesn't have the authority to make decisions. When the two delegations hold talks each of them has its own stance and one delegation cannot adopt the other's stance. There must be a third stance and this doesn't come except through negotiations between the leaders. Therefore, we want to make sure that we are talking about a complete peace, including embassies, open borders, and relations.

[Al-Sa'id] This will come as a result of withdrawal because we cannot put the cart before the horse.

[Peres] Why shouldn't this happen first and withdrawal take place afterward, especially because we will give up something tangible, the land?

[Al-Sa'id] This is not logical.

[Peres] Common sense says if you want something you have to work for peace.

[Al-Sa'id] Isn't it awkward for Israel to talk about a mere possible withdrawal from the Golan, which is Syrian land?

[Peres] Yes, it is Syrian land, but Syria made a mistake when it attacked us and this is the price of its mistake. When we began with Egypt, there was a partial withdrawal and the Egyptians took the initiative, responded to the call for opening embassies, and didn't insist on full withdrawal.

[Al-Sa'id] The difference in terms of area should be considered here. Sinai's area is 61,000 square kilometers, while Golan's does not exceed 1,200.

[Peres] We can withdraw in two or three stages.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the overall timetable of withdrawal from the Golan?

[Peres] I will not set a specific period right now. In Egypt's case, the withdrawal took seven years. And there is no difference. Do not forget that Syria waited for 17 years after al-Sadat's initiative. Why? I do not know. They could have taken everything like the Egyptians a long time ago. Why did they wait? They are to blame.

[Al-Sa'id] But what about your vision of the limit in how much time withdrawal from the Golan can take?

[Peres] We did not mention the overall period. But it can be equal to that taken during the withdrawal from Egypt. All we are saying right now is that withdrawal can be in stages.

[Al-Sa'id] What middle solution can you suggest on this?

[Peres] I am not negotiating with you right now, because you are not authorized by the Syrians.

[Al-Sa'id] It was said last April that you suggested a timetable between five and eight years.

[Peres] But Syria refused. It demanded an immediate full withdrawal, after which it would negotiate. That is not possible; we cannot give up everything and then negotiate. What I am suggesting right now is to negotiate all matters at the same time: Withdrawal, the nature of peace, the nature of security, and the overall timetable of the entire process. All these points should be discussed at the same time.

[Al-Sa'id] Rabin has threatened Syria with war.

[Peres] He said that in case peace stumbles. In such a case, war would emerge as an alternative.

[Al-Sa'id] Is this a threat?

[Peres] It is not a threat. Rabin was only voicing his concern over what might happen if peace is not established.

[Al-Sa'id] What is odd is that Israel is talking about an arms race, as though countries like Syria, Iraq, and Iran are the ones who escalate it. Israel is forgetting the arsenal it owns, both conventional and nuclear weapons, considering the 200 nuclear warheads it owns.

[Peres] Were you able to count them? Never in history has Israel threatened to destroy Iran or Iraq. But the Iranians demonstrate on the streets and threaten to destroy Israel. The Iraqis used Scud missiles against us.

[Al-Sa'id] I am not talking about conventional weapons, but about the nuclear weapons that you view as a security guarantee.

[Peres] We never said that we own nuclear weapons. Israel said that it would not manufacture nuclear weapons in the region. The matter is no longer admitting that I have this or that weapon; it is explaining what I have [sentence as published]. As long as I am threatened,

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there is no need for me to explain. So long as they constitute a constant threat to us, we cannot dismiss their concerns by affirming that we own no weapons.

[Al-Sa'id] How far do you believe in the possibility of reaching a peaceful settlement before the end of this year?

[Peres] I am optimistic, in spite of what people in Israel and what Arabs say. A state will not be strong with bombs and lands; it will be strong through science and technology. An army cannot defeat science. Neither can war overcome wisdom. Besides, war is a tragedy for us and for Arabs. It destroys and reduces the region to an underdeveloped place like many states in Africa. We are living in a new world and not a new policy. I do not view myself as an enemy of Arabs or Islam. On the contrary. We want peace. I am telling them that if they want to save their children as much as we want to save ours, they have to do the right thing by educating them and providing them with what they need at universities; with economy, science, and technology.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your message to President al-Asad?

[Peres] We seriously want peace with Syria. If President al- Asad wants to live in peace, he has to declare that to everyone. We do not want to occupy any land. We only want to guarantee our security. If we understand President al-Asad's hopes, he too must understand ours. I say to President al-Asad: At war, one has no alternative but to win. In peace, there must be concessions. You cannot win peace without making concessions.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that Israel is willing to make concessions?

[Perez] Yes, we are willing to make concessions.

IDF Chief of Staff Baraq on Talks With Syria

TA1609191994 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Sep 94 pp 7, 8, 9

[Interview with IDF Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq by Tzvi Timor and Aharon Klein; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] ['AL HAMISHMAR] How do you view al-Asad's speech to the People's Assembly?

[Baraq] The timing and the forum he addressed appear to be important. A speech by the Syrian president to the People's Assembly, the body representing the entire Syrian people, is the real thing. When he tells them: "I made a strategic decision to go for peace, even if not under any condition [as published]," in the final analysis what he is telling the Syrian public is that the time has come for objective or practical changes. In my view, that is the essence of the matter. In that sense, it is a step in the right direction. This means he is beginning to prepare his public, not only the elite, for the possibility of negotiations. I maintain the belief that negotiations with al-Asad will be very complicated. He is a talented and very capable man.

['AL HAMISHMAR] There is talk about a tight negotiating timetable, perhaps starting as soon as next February.

[Baraq] I do not know. I think that deciding beforehand on a timetable, and inserting such a sensitive process into an inflexible timetable, operates against whoever introduces this shackle.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Does Syria have a significant military option against Israel?

[Baraq] Syria is a very strong military state. It has 4,000 tanks and 2,000 artillery pieces and hundreds of fighter aircraft. It has a great deal of equipment. Therefore, from a technical- military point of view, it has a military option. From a political point of view, it is questionable because a military option has certain political requirements.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay spoke of possible Syrian military deception in its attitude to the peace process with Israel. Does Syria have such an option?" Does such a real danger exist?

[Baraq] I think it is wrong to discuss this now. At this time and against this background, I do not think it is correct to discuss the options the Syrians have or do not have on certain issues, when on the face of it at least, the situation appears to be the exact opposite. There is an army, there is the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and it must be prepared for any eventuality. I do not think we should discuss all those things in public.

['AL HAMISHMAR] So do you reject his remarks?

[Baraq] I do not think it is right to discuss that now. [passage omitted]

['AL HAMISHMAR] Do you believe an agreement with Syria would bring quiet to the border with Lebanon?

[Baraq] The purpose of military activity is to prevent harm to civilians, while keeping the price as low as possible and guarding the security zone. It is not designed to and cannot deal with the root of the problem. This is particularly true for Lebanon because we do not have to guess there. We learned our lessons from 17 years of experience. We have tried everything, but all those years it has been clear that such a problem cannot be solved by the use of force, no matter how intensive or prolonged. Force does not get to the root of the problem, which is political and thus requires a political solution.

No direct Syrian involvement is needed to restrain Hizballah. What is needed is Syria's political backing, mainly technical not physical. Syrian soldiers are not required because the sources of the activity are present. If and when we start dealing with the political arrangement, both the Syrian and Lebanese problems would naturally be solved. If we have a political arrangement with Syria, the solution of the Lebanese issue would

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almost be a byproduct. I do not know how it will work timetable-wise, but it would be an outcome of progress with the Syrians.

['AL HAMISHMAR] You said that the IDF has strategic solutions for the defense of Israel from the Golan.

[Baraq] I did not say we have. I said it is the Army's duty to prepare in the best way possible to provide a military backing for any decision the elected government makes. I would not want to comment on the concrete question. I do not believe it would be correct to discuss this now. My remarks were not accidental. The way I understand this, it is the only professional stand possible, but it contains all the elements: The opinion that it would be wrong to give up on anything at this time, but also that from a purely professional angle, when peace comes, we should be deployed in the Golan Heights, or on the Golan Heights. At the same time, it contains the two other elements the elected government must decide. It may chose the line we pointed at; it could opt for the line behind it, or far behind it. The army should, or will have to explain the consequences in detail, and give the best possible reply. At the same time, to reveal part of the components would be like putting the cart before the horse. After all, the negotiations are no longer hypothetical today, they are concrete. The Syrians monitor every remark we make. It would simply be unwise to make more detailed comments at this time—certainly for us.

['AL HAMISHMAR] On your last trip to the United States you discussed the U.S. compensation for Israel for a possible withdrawal. Could you elaborate?

[Baraq] Among other issues, I discussed with the Americans the meaning and inner logic of our security demands regarding the Syrians. I believe it is important. Look, the Syrians want to logically and practically understand our security considerations regarding the Golan Heights, and they are right from their point of view. They want to understand why we demand what we demand, saying that what they fail to understand while trying to play our role is not worth referring to because it may be a trick in a card game. At the moment, however, we are not speaking with the Syrians. Everything happens through the Americans.

['AL HAMISHMAR] What security arrangements are those?

[Baraq] Facing Syria, and if we really want to attain our goals, the arrangements are very complex and complicated. We must aspire for arrangements that would technically prevent a surprise strike. We need a very complex setup of arrangements if we want to prevent this. Incidentally, I believe that the Syrian demands will be similar. It is very difficult to prepare this while speaking to the Syrians indirectly, without having the professional echelons—which complete the U.S. diplomatic level—understand what we want and why, and realize it is logical. This is one issue I dealt with. The second issue is the Iranian and Iraqi threat, and how to best manage a military buildup while under tightening budgetary constraints.

I will note one issue that I discussed with the Americans: An attempt to pinpoint things that they could contribute to our overall deterrence ability and qualitative edge which would allow us to seriously consider the security arrangements with the Syrians. After all, these things put together are one. We did not hold detailed discussions because the time for such a discussion will not be ripe until we hold security talks with the Syrians. I assume that when the time comes, we will discuss this as well.

['AL HAMISHMAR] How do you view the claim that in the era of missiles with hundreds and thousands of kilometers in range, the Golan Heights has lost its strategic value?

[Baraq] I do not believe it is true. We have no choice. In the end, we will have to come up with answers to our concrete problems, and not with a list of generalizations for future reference. It is also true that threats still exist. There is talk of surface-to-surface missiles, but we talked about this back in 1973, and real missiles fell here then. At the same time, the unique case of the Gulf War helped everyone realize that even countries outside the first circle of combat could, in practice, clash with Israel with the use of surface-to-surface missiles. This does not radically change the type of threat we face from the countries in contact with us. There are differences. Iraq may consider firing missiles at Israel without having its ground units meeting Israeli units because there are hundreds of kilometers between the two closest units. Here, however, there are several dozens of kilometers to the capital, and a few dozens of kilometers to our essential targets. In general, it is impossible to conceive of a clash with missiles that is not part of an overall clash.

The Syrians do not have the option of firing missiles at Israel and then to relax. Nor do we have such an option. On the other hand, we are capable of forcing a cease fire through means other than missiles. However, the use of ground-to-ground missiles by a neighboring state is not the same as their being employed by a country located far away from Israel. That is why I say that the threat exists. It is part of any future war. But I believe that Israeli society is far more resilient than it may appear on the basis of that unique and slightly bizarre incident with the Iraqis. The missile issue is not going to monopolize our attention because in an all-out war, common sense will make people realize that developments on the battlefront are more important than the home front, where the missiles will be landing, even if 10 times more missiles are fired than during the Gulf War.

In the foreseeable future, the main threat to the State of Israel is still an all-out attack by conventional armies. Today it is also clear that Syria without additional Arab allies—and today it has no other Arab ally—has a far smaller military option than in 1973.

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If there has been any change in the Syrian military option, one must understand that it has been weakened due to the developments of the past few years. It is not getting any stronger. This weakening is the result of political developments and is not tied to Syria's military capability. The Syrians can perhaps grow militarily stronger, but they do not currently have an ally to work with. I am not saying that the present state of affairs will last forever. Right now, however, this is the situation. I also think that this was part of the reason Syria understood it had to seek political arrangements.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Could this situation change for the worse?

[Baraq] I am saying that right now, in the present time frame, one must seriously examine the option for political arrangements without harming Israel's vital interests. In my opinion, undermining these crucial security interests in the jungle we live in would constitute a serious mistake. We do not live in north America. This is not Illinois making peace with Manitoba. We live in a very problematic jungle. I would feel differently if we were surrounded by established Western democracies.

In the meantime, we have witnessed positive developments. We must take a sober view of the entire process while taking calculated and complex risks, in order tc exhaust the opportunities and lower hostilities. That is the right way to look at things and not as though some new era has suddenly fallen upon us, reminiscent of Western Europe, because this is not the case and such a perception would ultimately explode in our face. I am deliberately trying to strengthen or highlight the need for such a viewpoint. This is true both with regard to the Palestinians and the Jordanians, with whom we have a substantial degree of coexistence, and clearly so with the Syrians. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 15 September carries an interview with Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq by military affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David. When asked whether he considers it impossible to guarantee the security of the Israeli residents in the territories after the army redeploys outside of Palestinian population centers, the chief of staff replies: "I have already stated that in light of the IDF's possible withdrawal from urban Palestinian areas—with Israelis continuing to routinely travel there on a daily basis—I find it difficult to see how we can maintain our responsibility for the security of those Israelis, who travel and live there with the support of successive Israeli governments, without authority and responsibility for security being transferred to a different body with a record of meeting its commitments." Baraq goes on to assert that "it is clear to the Palestinian police and the Palestinian political leadership that to a great extent the developments in Gaza and Jericho constitute a test case," and "they understand that the continuation of their ties with Israeli society, across a very broad spectrum, and the continuation of the political process in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip greatly depends on how they will meet the test in the areas in which they have already been granted powers and the possibility of coping with the problem." The chief of staff asserts that "so far, they have not met the test although I cannot say that they are doing nothing. They have been active and have taken some steps. Contrary to other people, I did not expect things to happen from one day to the next. As far as they are concerned, this is a complicated process of creating the technical mechanisms for imposing authority and consolidating the professional and political will to impose the authority of the police force. I think it is premature to declare that they have failed the test."]

Intelligence Head on Arab Leaders' Health, Syria

TA1709155694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (YOM KIPPUR supplement) in Hebrew 14 Sep 94 pp 1, 2, 3

[Interview with Major General Uri Sagi, head of the Intelligence Branch, by Smadar Peri; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Peri] We may wake up one morning and find that an agreement with Syria had been cooked on a low flame, just like the Oslo agreements and the agreement with Jordan.

[Sagi] I believe what is cooking is a comprehensive process, of which Syria may be the main component. One must understand that we are not talking about a change in Syria's attitude toward the Zionist idea. We are talking about a very realistic maturing process of the entire political system whereby Syria—in its own way and pace, which are too slow to my liking—is advancing toward a possible arrangement with Israel.

Of course, there is no guarantee that this arrangement will become reality all at once. However, owing to the fact that the polarized positions of Israel and Syria have been thoroughly clarified, I believe it may soon be possible to bridge the gaps.

[Peri] With all due respect, your answer is quite vague. After all, although there are no public negotiations between the delegations, it is clear from Rabin's and al-Asad's proclamations that something is slowly cooking.

[Sagi] There is more to it than the man-in-the-street is aware of, but I can only describe the situation as it appears to me. The Syrian position seemed sufficiently clear to me in the past, although intelligence perceptions do not necessarily resemble those of the regular media. Even today, when time is running out in the face of other processes which might have an impact, I believe that the Syrians are gradually coming to the conclusion that they had better bridge the differences.

[Peri] Why is al-Asad in such a rush?

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[Sagi] Al-Asad is not a hasty man. However, I believe he realizes very well what is happening in the Arab world on the one hand and what may happen in the United States as elections approach on the other, and perhaps even what might happen in Israel since it is impossible to guarantee Labor's continued rule. For him, these are signs that justify an acceleration of the process.

Despite the fact that al-Asad does not share his perception of the situation with me, I believe that he understand the timetable rather well.

[Peri] I do not understand. How is the dialogue between us and the Syrians being conducted?

[Sagi] You do not expect me to deal with operational matters, not to mention that these involve information pertaining to the Israeli side. However, one need not be an intelligence officer to realize that an Israeli-Syrian agreement calls for input of both sides.

[Peri] The situation this week looked like a rigged game, with al-Asad talking about "a shred of progress" and Rabin talking about "a conciliatory tone." I imagine that developments are occurring quietly and very secretly.

[Sagi] That is your description. Matters are certainly not developing on their own, and I cannot promise that the political process will ripen and become an agreement tomorrow morning, as you said. I repeat: Without the input and investment of both sides and a softening of their positions I find it hard to see the attainment of an agreement. After all, we are at the end of the process and not necessarily at its beginning.

[Peri] Could you explain al-Asad's style to us? On the one hand he said he was the only man calling the shots with regard to Syria's peace policy while Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' is the "operator." On the other hand, it was important for al-Asad to appear in the parliament this week and deliver the first speech of its kind about peace.

[Sagi] Although the Syrian parliament is not an operational body in the democratic sense, it was important for al-Asad to appear there, not just because this is a newly-elected parliament but because I tend to believe al-Asad's assertion that he also needs time to prepare his own public opinion.

This may seem strange to an outside observer looking at a country like Syria. Although al-Asad is not the ruler of a democratic regime, I think I understand what he is talking about. He must prepare the governing institutions, even if to us as outside observers, these seem artificial. I would not play down the preparation of the Ba'th Party and the Progressive National Front, which is a union of Syria's "coalition factions." I also think that for some time he has been trying to prepare the 'Alawite community. It is no coincidence that the Syrian media changed certain nuances in its attitude toward the political process and toward Israel.

[Peri] At the same time, al-Asad asserted that he was talking about getting back the entire Golan Heights.

[Sagi] That is correct. We should all beware of any illusions on this issue. Of course, I will not voice an opinion as to whether Israel should implement this. That is not my job.

[Peri] In fact, al-Asad is demanding a full withdrawal on the Golan and wants to perpetuate his status in Lebanon.

[Sagi] ....And he wants to improve Syria's relationship with the United States.

[Peri] And you, as chief of intelligence, must identify what he is offering us.

[Sagi] I believe al-Asad is ready—and in my professional judgment he was ready in the past, the only difference being that today he is exhibiting his readiness more publicly and resolutely, albeit very cautiously—to pay for peace with Israel, a peace which will not be far from the Egyptian model.

[Peri] A cold peace? A warm peace?

[Sagi] I do not have a thermometer to measure peace. I think we should not delude ourselves that peace will break out and asphyxiate us. On the other hand, the peace between Egypt and Israel is a formal peace. As an ordinary Israeli citizen I would like this peace to contain more practical aspects.

But Syria understands that normal relations will be required, whose components and specifics it has not yet described to us. These will have to be negotiated, and the negotiations will apparently be very difficult and prolonged.

[Peri] Then there is the security component of our agreement with Syria.

[Sagi] Al-Asad understands that the agreement will do or die on the security arrangements. This is a crucial issue for Israel in the long-term view toward implementing any arrangements. Syria demands a response to its own security demands.

[Peri] Do you discern any sign that al-Asad will agree to anything less than a full withdrawal on the Golan?

[Sagi] I do not discern the slightest sign that al-Asad will forgo his basic demand, because this is in Syria's interest and because he uses the Egyptian model in the Sinai as a precedent.

[Peri] Can al-Asad already read Rabin?

[Sagi] I cannot elaborate on your question because of its sensitivity, but I discern certain shortcomings and gaps in Syria's understanding of Israeli mentality and atmosphere, and perhaps even of the ins and outs of the Israeli prime minister's position. It is too early to tell whether he will succeed in filling those gaps, but I must admit that I believe gaps exist.

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[Peri] Patrick Seale, a close associate of President al-Asad, contends that a breakthrough occurred in recent weeks. Do you agree with him?

[Sagi] I read what he wrote, and I really think that of all the people writing about al-Asad he is the one that is most on target, at least in recent times. Nevertheless, I would not like to rate Patrick Seale's evaluations.

It seems to me that certain conditions are maturing, at the end of which Syria and Israel may be able to bridge their differences.

[Peri] When al-Asad talks about "full peace" can we trust him?

[Sagi] As far as the future is concerned, it is hard to be sure about human nature. Looking at previous arrangements we made with him in the past—and I stress, arrangements we made with him—I think he kept his word. It should be pointed out that our border with Syria has been the most quiet of all our borders since 1974. I believe al-Asad fulfilled agreements as long as these served his interests.

[Peri] In parallel with the "maturing" of peace, al-Asad continues to build up his army. Does this worry you?

[Sagi] Any build-up, even if only potential at this point, is worrisome. We must not mix up the two issues.

Al-Asad built up his army over the past three years. Needless to say, in the same breath he criticizes us because he thinks we have been building up our army. He has acquired hundreds of tanks and self-propelled guns, and what is more important, he has procured long-range Scud-C missiles which have a strategic significance. In addition to the acquisition of tactical and conventional weapons, he continues to develop arms in Syria.

However, over the last year, he has not signed any other arms deal although we believed he had the budget and military conditions to sign another large arms deal. At this point, this has not happened. Monitoring Syria's military build-up and capabilities is our bread and butter.

[Peri] How do you square al-Asad's reluctance to specify the substance of peace and Syria's continued military build-up?

[Sagi] I am not sure that according to al-Asad's perception there is a contradiction. He cannot afford to be militarily inferior. The way al-Asad sees it—I stress, the way he sees it—Israel is the aggressor, and he would not like to have the lower hand if and when the political process collapses. He does not want to be left without an option, if he needs one.

When people argue with him—Syria's military build-up is occasionally raised with him—he points a finger at Israel which, as he sees it, is building up its army, acquiring modern jet fighters, and developing its own weapons, not to mention the volume of military aid Israel gets from the United States.

[Peri] How does the Israeli chief of intelligence rate his Syrian counterpart, 'Ali Duba?

[Sagi] I would not say 'Ali Duba is the only man in control and command of the entire Syrian intelligence apparatus. We are talking about general intelligence, military intelligence, and other security bodies. It would be unwise on my part to grade Syrian intelligence. To the extent possible, I also abstain from grading our performance. We should never rest on our laurels.

[Peri] Do the chiefs of Syrian intelligence rest on their laurels?

[Sagi] I do not think so.

[Peri] There is talk in Israel about efforts to arrange a meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. According to your observation of al-Asad, will he allow such a meeting or is he keeping for himself the glory of a meeting with Rabin?

[Sagi] I do not know on what you base your allegations about a meeting between al-Shar' and Peres. To the best of my knowledge, al-Asad continues to advocate a different kind of dialogue; namely, not to allow high-level meetings of leaders as long as the basic conditions have not ripened. Let me explain: As long as he feels that Israel has not made up its mind to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights, which will require him to give something in exchange, al-Asad believes that high-level meetings are premature and he objects to them. This also applies to a meeting between himself and the Israeli prime minister.

[Peri] What intelligence response do we have to Mt. Hermon, "Israel's eyes?"

[Sagi] In the Golan Heights in general, and on Mt. Hermon in particular, we try to use all possible senses. Your question touches upon the foundations of Israel's security concept, and it is only natural that I should not want to elaborate on it. However, I would like to point to two seemingly contradictory facts. Nobody better than me realizes the enormous importance of the Golan Heights from the intelligence point of view, particularly when we do not yet have a political arrangement. On the other hand, I also realize that if and when the political level makes its decision the Army in general and the Intelligence Branch in particular will find the ways to supply early warning.

[Peri] Can Israel find "other eyes?"

[Sagi] I would not want to be specific. If and when the political level decides that the political arrangement calls for a redeployment I believe we will find the answers.

[Peri] Have the Americans acceded to the Israeli request to station early-warning satellites over Israeli territory?

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Will they allow us to buy JSTARS [Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System] aircraft?

[Sagi] Although I would love to answer you, your questions are outside my purview. I think that the question of our security will be thoroughly examined by Israel on its own, and perhaps also with others.

[Peri] Let me ask you a general question: How is Israel perceived today in the Arab world? Are we accepted? Are we a fact?

[Sagi] Because it is a general question, I will allow myself to be superficial and give you a general answer. In the eyes of the Arabs, Israel is first and foremost a militarily powerful country with impressive strategic abilities that give it a big edge over the Arabs. I am in no position to either confirm or deny, but they believe that Israel has nuclear arms. They also think that we have a big advantage over them in the economic and technological fields. They put all these factors together and each country draws its own conclusions. Ultimately, however, countries such as Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and others think we have a clear advantage over them. They also think that Israel has a political edge over them, that Israel is tied to the United States with an umbilical cord, that not only does the United States influence us but we also influence U.S. policy. According to the myth they have created, all these enable us to present rigid positions in the political process.

[Peri] Can you point to any Arab countries which still regard us as "the Zionist enemy?"

[Sagi] To a large extent we are still "the Zionist enemy" and an inorganic transplant in the Middle East. Therefore, more than one generation, if at all, is needed to change the basic conditions. Nevertheless, I distinguish between the ideological level, however big it may be, and the pragmatic level in which the recognition has ripened that the State of Israel is a living fact, and that as such, they had better reach a political arrangement with it. There is pragmatic acceptance of Israel; I stress, pragmatic.

[Peri] With your help, we would like to look at the health of Arab leaders.

[Sagi] I admit that our analysts deal with this aspect. However, we should proceed with utmost caution seeing that we are dealing with an issue which not even personal physicians or relatives can answer. I suggest a bit of caution to anybody harboring hidden hopes, thoughts, or fears that the health of the leaders is what determines processes.

[Peri] How is al-Asad's health?

[Sagi] To the best of my knowledge, al-Asad functions properly, is lucid and healthy.

[Peri] But he looks bad.

[Sagi] Yes, he suffers from some basic diseases on which I would not like to elaborate, but this is not new. He functions and he is in control, and he is the man who determines Syrian policy.

[Peri] And King Husayn?

[Sagi] According to the best of our medical judgment, King Husayn is healthy and functioning properly.

[Peri] President Mubarak looks the healthiest of them all.

[Sagi] Mubarak is completely healthy and functions properly.

[Peri] And 'Arafat?

[Sagi] It seems to me that on the whole, 'Arafat—whose medical prognosis is occasionally discussed by us—is functioning properly and is calling the shots.

[Peri] What about Saddam Husayn?

[Sagi] He looks healthy to us.

[Peri] He is not often seen in public.

[Sagi] That is true. However, based on our monitoring of his health I cannot say that he is sick. [passage omitted]

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Al-Majali Receives Libyan Envoy, Message for King

JN1909200194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office today Jum'ah Mahdi al-Fazzani, personal envoy of Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Dr. 'Abdallah al-Jazi, minister of state at the Prime Ministry, attended the meeting.

To begin the meeting, the prime minister welcomed the Libyan president's envoy and received from him a message from the Libyan president to His Majesty King Husayn. He also asked the Libyan envoy to convey His Majesty King Husayn's greetings to his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the fraternal Libyan people.

During the meeting, al-Fazzani said President al-Qadhdhafi believes that an Arab summit should be held to discuss the means of achieving Arab reconciliation, especially since the current situation necessitates putting an end to differences, whose continuation will pose a threat to the entire nation, and that there are regional and international developments which influence the political and economic dimensions in the Arab world.

Al-Fazzani added that the convocation of such a summit would be a new beginning in the inter-Arab relations which will bolster joint Arab action, including the amending and issuing of annexes to the Arab League Charter, and reactivating the Arab Common Market. He said that Cairo, which hosts the Arab League headquarters, should be the venue for this summit.

The guest praised His Majesty King Husayn's leadership, political experience, and care for the nation's problems and concerns.

Dr. al-Majali stressed that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, has always supported the unity of ranks, and called for tackling Arab issues within the framework of Arab fold, taking into consideration that points of agreement and unity are much greater than the causes of estrangement and differences.

He said that His Majesty King Husayn has warned that Arabs must comprehend the new world order to achieve the nation's higher interests, and that the Arab leaders' meeting should not be held to discuss differences, but to discuss the means of bolstering the nation's position in the world.

He added that His Majesty King Husayn and all Jordanians have always extended their hands toward everyone for the sake of achieving unity and the interests of all the sons of the nations in the greater homeland.

The prime minister was briefed by the guest on the Libyan policy to reduce the public sector's role and expand that of the private sector, concentrating on production, and rationalizing consumer patterns in the Libyan society.

The prime minister said that Jordan has always sought to promote relations with the Arab brothers in all fields, expressing the hope that relations with Libya will be promoted in the investment, cultural, health, and trade fields in the interest of the peoples in the two fraternal countries.

Libyan Envoy Departs

JN2009063894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Jum'ah Mahdi al-Fazzani, personal envoy of Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, left Amman tonight after a visit to Jordan that lasted two days. During the visit, he met with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and delivered to him a message from the Libyan president to His Majesty King Husayn. He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by Dr. 'Abdallah al-Jazi, minister of state at the Prime Ministry and the Libyan ambassador in Amman.

Al-Rawabidah Returns From Arab League Session

JN1609203794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Sep 94

[From the "60 Minutes" program]

[Excerpt] The Jordanian delegation to the 102d session of the Arab League Ministerial Council in Cairo, which was held at the foreign ministers level, returned to Amman this evening. The session was chaired by Jordan.

'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, minister of state for cabinet affairs, minister of education, and head of the Jordanian delegation, said the session was successful and was permeated by a spirit of fraternity and a sincere desire to activate joint Arab action. [passage omitted]

Minister Departs for Kyoto Conference

JN1609133694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Communications Minister Dr. Hashim al-Dabbas left Amman for Japan today. He is leading an official delegation to the plenipotentiary conference organized by the International Telecommunications Union in Kyoto, Japan. The conference will begin tomorrow with the participation of 182 states. [passage omitted]

IAF Rejects Arab-Israeli Peace Talks

JN2009091794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Sep 94 p 2

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—The Islamic Action Front [IAF] has reiterated its rejection of the overall ongoing negotiations. This came in a statement issued yesterday

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on the first anniversary of the Oslo accord and the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda. The IAF warned against the danger of enabling the Jews to target the Islamic movement, adding that the Jews consider the Islamic movement a source of enmity in Arab political thinking.

The IAF also warned against the danger of Zionizing the Arab region through cultural, economic, and political normalization. It also warned against undermining the pillars of the Palestinian identity and threatening Palestinian national unity.

Al-'Anani: No 'Bargaining' With Holy Places

JN1909110794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Sep 94 pp 1, 21

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Jordan has reiterated its adherence to the important and great role it has assumed to safeguard the holy shrines in Jerusalem. In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, [Jordanian Information Minister] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani said Jordan adheres to the important role it assumes to safeguard the holy shrines in Jerusalem, adding that this is not a controversial issue and that Jordan will not relinquish this great role and duty.

Regarding news agencies' reports about an official Palestinian National Authority [PNA] request to transfer the supervision of the holy places in Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan to the PNA, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani announced that Jordan has not received any official request from the PNA to this effect.

Dr. al-'Anani said the Islamic holy places should not be subject to any bargaining or moods, adding that these places should not be subject to political differences. He said nobody should be allowed to gamble with the holy places for any purpose. He said anyone who challenges the great role Jordan is playing—which it will not relinquish—must be qualified for this and must shoulder full responsibility before Muslims.

Jordan excluded the holy places from all measures that followed the disengagement announcement between the two banks in 1988 out of its concern for keeping the holy lands away from any encroachment by the occupation authorities and for safeguarding Islamic and Arab rights there.

Decision To Send Forces to Haiti Questioned

JN1909125994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 30

["On the Road" column by George Haddad: "We, Haiti, and Paying the Bills of Friendship"]

[Text] Yesterday, after I listened to a number of radio and television news bulletins from European and American broadcast stations, I was certain that the invasion of Haiti by U.S. forces was a matter of time, or rather a matter of hours, depending on whether President Carter's delegation succeeds or fails in its mission.

Although, in fact, I have no idea whatsoever about the real motives and objectives of the invasion, I, just like any other political observer, am not willing to believe the declared pretexts and objectives of the invasion.

The selectivity of U.S. stands in dealing with international crises, as we in this region already know more than anyone else, does not at all give the impression that the Americans are concerned about humanitarian principles more than they are concerned about their national interests.

The claim of "the restoration of democracy to Haiti" promoted by U.S. media is a pretext for invasion and interference in other countries' domestic affairs when they do not go hand in hand with U.S. precedents and the familiar U.S. policy of dealing with problems of democratic and dictatorial regimes, as well as autocratic regimes, such as the state of usurpation [Israel]. Everyone near and far realizes the values of reverse discrimination are not in line with progressive democratic values. However, Israel's practice of reverse discriminatory values has been considered a "democratic" practice by successive U.S. administrations. Indeed, in the American vocabulary, the state of usurpation itself is an oasis of democracy.

Is there any need to present as evidence other "democratic" stands adopted by the Americans, such as encouraging Yeltsin to attack the parliament in Moscow, the "Kuwait liberation" war to restore democracy to Kuwait, or the continued support of tribal regimes and hired ethnic and religious gangs?

In nay case, the Americans are free in what they say and do, and in what they announce and hide. We, however, should not poke our nose into their decisions and policies, except the ones related to us and to our country, and to what would be detrimental to justice, the future of people, and human life.

We are interested in what the news agencies reported about Jordan's agreement to dispatch public security forces to participate with international forces that will be in charge of "the task of observation and the extension of humanitarian services to the Haitians after the attack."

What could be stranger than the story of "extending humanitarian services"—to which a Jordanian official resorted in his statement to the Jordanian News Agency to display his smartness—the official's statement that "his country (Jordan) is playing this role because it supports peoples' right to sovereignty, freedom, democracy, and to live in security and peace."

What do we want to say?

Nothing. Nothing. However, does the paying of bills of (friendship!) to the Americans mean we place our sons and youths at the disposal of Uncle Sam?!!

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This is just a question.

U.S. Ambassador Criticized Over Economic Advice

JN2009061194 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 2

[Text] U.S. Ambassador in Amman Wesley Egan has voiced indignation at the stagnation in Jordan's economy and at how it is not responding and reacting in an acceptable manner to the tangible progress that is being achieved on the Israeli-Jordanian track of negotiations. He said he believes that this is being caused by the wait-and-see policy Jordanian businessmen have adopted and the existence of financial and monetary legislation that does not encourage U.S. investors to put their money into services and productive ventures in Jordan.

To end this stagnation and to give a push to Jordan's economy, the U.S. ambassador mentioned that Jordanian-U.S. consultations had been held to decrease customs duties levied on U.S. cars and to abrogate provisions in the laws that limit foreign investment activities and restrict the movement of capital and investment spheres. He also called for legislation that would make Jordan more receptive to these investments and less costly in terms of the direct and indirect taxes it imposes on the assets used in ventures to be carried out with joint U.S.-Jordanian capital and on their profits.

Although his excellency the ambassador was not enthusiastic about the present performance of the Jordanian economy, during his meeting with Jordanian businessmen he highlighted the role the three-way economic committee from Jordan, Israel, and the United States will play to eliminate existing customs obstacles in both Israel and Jordan which hamper the establishment of joint ventures and the flow of goods between the two neighboring countries.

Commenting on the formula his excellency the U.S. ambassador has proposed to invigorate the stagnant Jordanian economy, an economic expert told us that the United States is not concerned with reviving our economy, and this is the last thing it is thinking about. If it were really interested in increasing production in Jordan it would not have asked for a reduction of the customs duties levied on imported U.S. cars and it would not have established the three-way economic committee, whose main concern is to disengage Jordan's economy from the economies of the neighboring Arab countries and link it to the Israeli economy through the amendments it wants introduced to laws and regulations on encouraging foreign investments.

Perhaps the U.S. ambassador who pokes his nose in even the most minute matters in Jordan and who deals with our financial and monetary authorities in the same manner that the British high commissioner used to adopt in Palestine and Egypt, realizes more than anyone else that the policy of opening the doors to foreign imports and reducing the customs duties will enable the U.S auto industry to sell part of its unsold cars on the Jordanian market, and from there to market them to neighboring Arab countries. This will greatly harm the Jordanian economy as this requires hard currency to pay for these cars, their spare parts, and the insurance policies, not to mention the tens of millions of dinars that will be allocated to paving, widening, and maintaining the roads that will have to accommodate the great number of imported U.S. vehicles.

It would be more beneficial for us if his excellency the U.S. ambassador would stop poking his nose in our economic affairs and if we adopt a policy that limits the import of luxury items instead of adopting the open-door policy his excellency is calling for. Such a policy, when coupled with the activation of trade with neighboring Arab countries and the establishment of joint Arab ventures, is more than enough to produce the push his excellency speaks about to invigorate our economy.

Stability Said Returning After CBJ Crisis

JN2009102794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Sep 94 pp 1, 7

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Despite a serious crisis in the first two quarters of the year resulting from reasons unrelated to pure economics, stability is returning to Jordan's foreign exchange reserves and the situation would be quite comfortable by the end of 1994 if the present trend continues, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Muhammad al-Nabulsi said Monday [19 September].

It was the most serious economic problem since the Gulf crisis to confront Jordan's economy, which is on a strong path towards recovery following economic chaos that surfaced in the late 1980s, prompting a devaluation of the dinar and the adoption of an economic restructuring programme.

Analysts say that the strain in political relations between Jordan and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) had compounded the situation, casting serious doubts on economic cooperation between the Kingdom and the occupied territories and the prospect of the Jordanian dinar continuing to be the main currency in circulation there.

However, they said the success that the CBJ achieved in handling the situation had boosted confidence in the Jordanian economy and fiscal policies.

The comments on Monday to journalists, Dr. al-Nabulsi voiced confidence in the performance of the Jordanian economy and the stability of the dinar and categorically affirmed that there was no plan or reason whatsoever to devalue the dinar.

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"Devaluation of the dinar was never contemplated at any point," Dr. al-Nabulsi emphasised. "Why should we devalue the dinar when the economy is performing well and there is an equilibrium in the exchange value of the currency?"

Dr. al-Nabulsi said political uncertainties in the Middle East peace process and the rumours of dinar devaluation were part of the reasons behind a sharp dip of $400 million in the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves in the first two quarters of this year.

Against the backdrop of the uncertain course of the peace talks, expatriates dissuaded by the rumours could have used banking systems "other than Jordanian" to send their remittances to the occupied territories and this could account for part of the visible shortfall in Jordan, he said.

In addition, donor governments did not transfer the funds that they promised Jordan as part of the economic reform package that the Kingdom is implementing, Dr. al-Nabulsi said in comments to the "Monday Press Circle"—an informal weekly gathering of Journalists.

The CBJ's foreign currency reserves—excluding about $1 billion in mandatory deposits from commercial banks—had hit an all-time high of $1.1 billion in 1993 after registering zero in 1989, Dr. al-Nabulsi noted.

The government spent $400 million to $500 million of the reserves to service foreign debts and seal debt buy-back and rescheduling agreements towards the end of 1993, he said.

"It was a conscious decision" to draw on the reserves to address the foreign debt obligations, he said. "We felt and still feel that a $600 million level (in reserves) is quite comfortable," he said. That would represent four to five months of Jordan's import needs.

In the first three months of this year, the CBJ found a decline of about $100 million in its foreign currency reserves as a result of having had to meet market needs and considered it as a natural event that would correct itself, particularly that there was a decline of about 20 per cent in expatriate remittances during that period when compared with the corresponding months of 1993, he said.

But the loss in the reserves was too dramatic in the second quarter, amounting to $300 million—at a rate of $100 million a month—said the CBJ governor. This prompted the bank to scrutinise the situation and find that there was continued drying up of expatriate remittances to Jordan. Non-arrival of funds promised by donors exacerbated remittance the situation, Dr. al-Nabulsi said.

"There was no meaningful explanation" to what was happening, he said, adding that in mid-1994 the CBJ's reserves stood at $220 million, the lowest since 1990.

The Central Bank governor declined to discuss the possible political aspects of the situation, but said he did not believe that "anyone would purposely seek to undermine the Jordanian economy."

"Seepage of foreign currency" across the River Jordan to the West Bank was indeed another factor in the decline in foreign exchange available in Jordan, but it was negligible when compared with the overall size of the drop that the CBJ saw until June, he said.

The CBJ had "indirect confirmation" that not more than $30 million in hard currency—"$5 million to $6 million a month"—were "physically" transferred from Jordan to the occupied territories in the first six months of the year, Dr. al-Nabulsi said.

The CBJ governor's affirmation, supported by definite figures, strongly cut into widespread suggestions that Palestinian residents of the occupied territories were withdrawing "millions" of dinars from banks "every day" and crossing to Jordan to change them into dollars before returning back.

As the overall situation worsened, Jordan contacted the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which are overseeing the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme, and received assurances of help, he said.

"We had to tell them that there was a serious seepage of the reserves of the country and if it continued for another six months we would be in trouble," he said.

Among the measures adopted by the CBJ was a boost in interest rates from four to six and seven per cent on certificates of deposits, and this had an immediate effect on the situation.

Subsequently, things started to correct themselves shortly before Jordan and Israel signed the Washington Declaration on July 25, he said, adding that exports were picking up and expatriate remittances were also going up.

"Things are stabilising now," Dr. al-Nabulsi said. "Little by little transfers are returning to normal." Donors also made good their pledges in July, he added.

"We have recovered $200 million in reserves since then, and if the present trend continues, then in the next two months we would have fully restored reserves to the level that prevailed at the end of 1993," he predicted.

Palestine Investment Bank To Open in West Bank

JN1709100894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Sep 94 p 9

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Investment Bank (PIB), one of the first financial institutions to be approved and licensed by the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in autonomous Gaza and Jericho, has elected a board of

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directors and intends to start operations in the self-rule areas in two months, the chairman of the board said Friday.

'Abd al-Qadir al-Qadi, who was elected chairman of the board in the first meeting of shareholders on Thursday [15 September], said the bank would focus on "medium- and long-term" credit facilities and investment in the autonomous areas while also functioning as a commercial bank.

The bank has been approved by the Palestine National Authority, he told the JORDAN TIMES, adding that the institution "will abide by the provisions in the economic agreement between Jordan and the PNA."

The bank will operate a public shareholding company with limited liability and registered with the company registrar, he said.

The PIB intends to open its first two branches in Gaza and Jericho in the next two months and also plans to expand its operations through opening more branches elsewhere in the West Bank, Mr. al-Qadi said.

"The PIB has the authority to expand its branch network in the future in all areas that will eventually fall under the jurisdiction of the PNA," Mr. al-Qadi said.

The nearly 100 shareholders of the bank are Jordanian, businessmen from the Gulf states and Palestinians in that order, Mr. al-Qadi said. In its first meeting Thursday, the general assembly of shareholders decided to raise the capital of the bank to $20 million from $15 million "as a result of oversubscription in the initial offering," he said.

Among the board of directors are 'Ali al-Suhaymat (vice chairman), Hani al-Qadi (managing director), and representatives of investment houses in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Other directors include Mahmud Abu al-Rubb, 'Abd al-Halim Hassan al-Ifrangi, Antoine Yusuf Sansur, Ghassan al-Shak'ah, and Mohammad Masruyi.

The PIB is the first local bank to be established under the Palestine National Authority since it took control of the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May, noted Mr. al-Qadi, chairman of the Arab Jordan Investment Bank in Amman.

"The main objectives behind the establishment of the PIB is to develop the financial markets in the PNA areas and to assist in its economic development," he said. "The bank will also assist in channelling funds from international donors to the Palestinian areas."

The Palestine Investment Bank is different from the Arab Palestine Investment Bank which is being set up with the involvement of the Arab Bank, the International Finance Corporation—an arm of the World Bank—and the German development agency, DED.

The Arab Palestine Investment bank is described as a specialised institution that will focus on the needs of individuals and entities employing five to 10 people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Committee To Defend National Charter Established

JN1709113294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Sep 94 p 29

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text]Amman—The establishment of the Preparatory Committee for Defending the National Charter and the Palestinian People's National Rights under lawyer Ibrahim Bakr was announced in Amman yesterday

The committee held its first meeting at the house of Ibrahim Bakr, vice chairman of the executive committee [not further identified]. Members include executive committee members 'Abd-al- Rahim Malluh and Taysir Khalid; Fatah Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan; Salih al-Barghuthi, vice president of the Palestinian National Fund; and Ghazi al-Surani and Dr. 'Isam al-Tahir, members of the Palestine National Council and the PLO Central Council.

More than one committee member told AL-RA'Y that there is an intention to establish similar committees in the Palestinian territories that were occupied in 1967 and 1948, and in Syria, Lebanon, and the diaspora.

They said agreement was reached to pursue work within the committee to keep in step with political developments in the Palestinian arena in and outside the territories, to coordinate stands with the Palestinian forces, figures, and bodies that oppose the Oslo and Cairo agreements and the other agreements that were signed in Paris and Cairo, and to consider them as not binding to the Palestinian people.

They said the committee will seek to protect the PLO and its institutions, safeguard the Palestinian people's unity, and pursue the struggle to realize the Palestinian national program dealing with self-determination, independence, and the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland.

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Israeli Patrol Attacked; Artillery 'Barrage'

NC1909115594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Jabal al-Rafi' and the Jabal al-Tasah stream this morning came under sporadic artillery barrage from Israeli occupation posts in al-Zaffatah and Tallat al-Suwayda'. The barrage was accompanied by bursts of machine-gun fire. Israeli military aircraft flew low sorties over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah today.

A unit of the Lebanese Resistance Battalions, Amal, detonated an explosive charge on the Kafr Falus-'Ayn al-Mir road as an Israeli intelligence vehicle was passing. The vehicle was hit and all its crew members were killed or wounded. Immediately afterward the Israeli forces and agents began shelling the area to evacuate the casualties.

Israeli radio reported that Israeli warplanes this morning bombed the Jabal al-Rafi' area in Iqlim al-Tuffah. We have received no reports on casualties in the raid.

'Gunmen' Seriously Wound Hizballah Official

NC1909143994 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 12 Sep 94 P 5

[Text] Unidentified gunmen shot and seriously wounded Sa'id al-'Ali, a Hizballah official, in Haris, Bint Jubayhl, on Saturday [10 September] night.

A Hizballah information source made the following statement: Hizballah official Sa'id al-'Ali was seriously injured in the head yesterday. He was taken to the hospital. He is in serious condition.

Joint Committee Cancels Car Fees on Syrian Border

JN2009072894 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Beirut (SANA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri yesterday discussed with Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council, current preparations for the next meeting of the Syrian-Lebanese Coordination and Cooperation Committee under the cochairmanship of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. This meeting will witness the signing of an agreement to cancel the fees currently charged on cars crossing the Lebanese-Syrian border in both directions.

Khuri announced that Syrian-Lebanese ministerial committees reached a decision during their recent meetings to cancel all fees on Syrian and Lebanese cars crossing the border in both direction. Speaking after his meeting with Prime Minister al-Hariri yesterday, Khuri said for the decision to be valid it must be ratified by the Coordination and Cooperation Committee chaired by the prime ministers of both countries. Khuri expected the Coordination and Cooperation Committee to hold its meeting before the end of this month.

On the other hand, Lebanese Transport Minister 'Umar Misqawi has announced that the agreement reached with the Syrian Government on border fees is the outcome of the meetings of the joint committees between the two countries and the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad. Addressing a news conference last night in Beirut, Misqawi outlined the agreement, saying it reduces the service charge on goods from 5 percent to 0.2 percent and it cancels fees currently charged on tourist, private, and public means of transport as well as insurance.

The Lebanese transport minister pointed out that the agreement also cancels fees and charges on trip-tickets for trucks. The minister said that these exemptions will not be applicable to private means of transport owned by Syrians residing in Lebanon. Their owners will continue to pay the current fees and charges. The same also applies to private means of transport owned by Lebanese residing in Syria.

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Al-Zu'bi, Lebanon's al-Hariri Cochair Meetings

JN1909180294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The meetings of the second term of the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Commission opened at the Prime Ministry at noon today. Today's meeting was cochaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. [passage omitted]

At the outset of the session, al-Zu'bi delivered a speech, in which he welcomed Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. Al-Zu'bi stressed the importance of this meeting as a means to follow up on the steps taken thus far to enhance cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal states.

The prime minister added: Syria has asserted that it is fully prepared to help Lebanon remove the physical and moral traces left by the civil war. Syria and Lebanon bear a joint responsibility to face the Zionist challenge and stand united on the peace front, as dictated by their mutual interests.

Al-Zu'bi added that President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed in the greetings he extended to the Lebanese people, president, chamber of deputies, and government—in his recent speech—his appreciation of Lebanon's remarkable steadfastness and adherence to coordination with Syria. Al-Asad said that divisions are a source of weakness and that unity is a source of strength. Al-Asad also stressed in his speech that Syria's strength is a source of strength for Lebanon and that a strong Lebanon, with its people and principles, is a source of strength for Syria, and that the relationship between Syria and Lebanon is an example to be followed.

The prime minister added: We adhere to the great objective that united us in the past and unifies us in the present in the face of the challenges, to pursue the development process, using coordinated, collective, integral capabilities. We also face the peace process with a coordinated, constant position so we will together achieve a just and comprehensive peace in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Al-Zu'bi added: Through the activities of the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Commission, we have managed to make joint strides. Al-Zu'bi also hailed the efforts being made by everybody in Lebanon and Syria to formulate ideas, draft agreements, and translate ideas into reality.

He went on: Our mutual feelings mandate that we make more efforts to accommodate the common needs of the two fraternal countries. The purpose of this is to bolster social, economic, and cultural cooperation that rests on a solid foundation of active political cooperation.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri also delivered a speech, in which he thanked Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi for the warm reception and hospitality.

He added: First of all, I would like to convey the greetings of President Ilyas al-Hirawi to President Hafiz al-Asad and the government and people of Syria.

Al-Hariri added: We in Lebanon highly appreciate Syria's role and its sacrifices for Lebanon. Syria and Lebanon are now fighting the battle of peace to regain their occupied territory. We shall stay together, and there will be no relinquishment of rights or of Syrian-Lebanese territory.

Al-Hariri said that Israel is consistently trying to create disputes and fabricate problems between the leaders of Lebanon and Syria. However, we shall stick together, because the brotherhood between the two fraternal countries cannot be undermined, despite all the pressures being put on Lebanon.

Al-Hariri also urged developing the relations of brotherhood between the two countries to match the level of the political relations between them.

Discussions during the session addressed topics on the commission's agenda and ways to enhance relations of cooperation between the two fraternal countries in all fields. This is meant to serve the interests of the two fraternal countries and peoples and embody the Brotherhood, Cooperation and Coordination Treaty signed between the two countries.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and his accompanying delegation at 1115 today. The meeting was attended by Rashid Akhtarini and Dr. Salim Yasin, deputies prime minister for services and economic affairs, and Nasri al-Khuri, secretary general of the Syrian-Lebanese Cooperation Council.

The conferees discussed bilateral ties and the agenda of the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Commission. [passage omitted]

Water, Economy, Tourism Discussed

JN1909171594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Damascus—The meetings of the second session of the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Commission opened at the Prime Ministry at noon today. Today's meeting was cochaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. [passage omitted]

Also this evening, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri cochaired a working session of talks at the Prime Ministry. The session was attended on the Syrian side by Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini, minister of finance; Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman Madani,

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minister of irrigation; and Engineer Munib Sa'im al-Dahr, minister of electricity. For Lebanon, the talks were attended by Minister of Economy and Trade Hagop Demerdjian, Finance Minister Fu'ad Sinyurah, and Water and Electricity Minister Ilyas Hubayqah.

The talks addressed the fraternal Syrian-Lebanese ties and the prospects for promoting them, especially with regard to cooperation in the fields of water exploitation, power generation, and the joint construction of dams. The talks also addressed economic and trade exchange, as well as the provision of facilities by each country to the nationals of the other country.

Another meeting was held between both sides today. The meeting brought together Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi and Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini on the Syrian side, and Minister of State for Financial Affairs Fu'ad Sinyurah, and Economy Minister Hagop Demerdjian for Lebanon. This meeting is part of the meetings held by the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Commission. The talks addressed issues related to financial, economic, and trade cooperation between the two fraternal states with a view to increasing the volume of bilateral trade and promoting economic ties between them in implementation of the Syrian-Lebanese Brotherhood, Coordination, and Cooperation Treaty.

Another meeting was held at the Ministry of Tourism today on the sidelines of the meetings held by the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Commission. The meeting brought together Tourism Minister Muhammad Amin Abu-al-Shamat and his Lebanese counterpart Nicholas Fattush, as well as the heads of competent departments at the ministry. The two sides agreed to convene a joint meeting for the officials in charge of managing hotels in both Syria and Lebanon to coordinate issues related to the curricula used at these institutes and exchange expertise.

It was also decided to hold a seminar on the promotion of joint tourism, to be attended by tourism and travel agencies in both countries on the occasion of World Tourism Day.

Al-Asad Briefed on Results

JN2009073194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, cochairmen of the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Commission, at 1845 yesterday. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of the meeting, al-Hariri conveyed to his excellency the president the greetings and good wishes of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The president asked al-Hariri to convey his greetings and good wishes to President al-Hirawi and the fraternal Lebanese people.

The cochairmen briefed the president on the work of the commission and the results of its second round of meetings in Damascus, which seeks to develop cooperation and coordination and implement the provisions of the brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination treaty. The president expressed his satisfaction with what has been achieved and called for greater efforts to develop and promote cooperation in the interest of people in the two countries. The importance of the brotherly bilateral ties to the two countries and their common interest was emphasized during the meeting. The Lebanese side expressed Lebanon's thanks and appreciation for the greetings his excellency the president addressed to Lebanon in his People's Assembly speech and for the assistance Syria is extending to Lebanon in all fields.

Import-Export Committee Discusses Export Promotion

JN1909075694 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 4 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Damascus—The Import-Export Guidance Committee held a meeting under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1200 yesterday. The meeting was attended by comrade Walid Hamdun, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; minister members of the committee; representatives of popular organizations and establishments; representatives of the chambers of commerce and industry, and several directors and advisers.

During this meeting, the committee discussed a memo submitted by the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade containing several proposals on ways to promote exports by encouraging exporters to increase and diversify their exports, overcoming obstacles which hamper exports, and providing all that will help develop Syrian exports and increase their volume in the interest of producers and exporters as well as the national economy.

The prime minister said efforts will continue to provide all that will promote exports, including the necessary facilities to encourage exporters to increase their exports. He explained the nature of the measures which have been, and will be, taken in this regard to consolidate Syria's export policy and increase Syria's share in world export activity.

The committee reviewed applications for importing several commodities and goods which are not produced locally and are considered essential to meet the needs of production and consumption.

The committee also discussed proposals to raise the ceiling of Syrian goods and products that travelers can take out with them or which can be dispatched by mail without the need for a pledge to return their value in foreign currencies.

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The committee discussed the items on its agenda and the topics submitted and made the appropriate decisions on them.

U.S. Official Said 'Unwelcome' in Damascus

JN1909201794 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 19 Sep 94 pp 1, 9

[Report by Shawqi Abu-Sha'irah from Damascus]

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned that the signs of a silent crisis have started to appear on the horizon of U.S.-Syrian ties. Damascus has made no secret of the fact that it is dissatisfied with the visit of Dennis Ross, the Middle East peace process coordinator, instead of one by Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Informed sources here told AL-MAJD that Ross is unwelcome in Syria, not only because he is the State Department official most biased toward Israel, but also because the Syrian capital was not satisfied with the justifications cited by Christopher for postponing his own visit.

The Syrian leadership told the U.S. Administration a few days ago that the United States should assume a greater role in the peace process, and that it should move from the role of a sponsor and broker of negotiations into that of a third partner in this process. The U.S. replied negatively by postponing Christopher's visit. Christopher cited three reasons for the postponement. First, the U.S. Administration was surprised a few days ago by a new Syrian position that it would not go back to negotiations with Israel to reach a declaration of principles between the two countries, since experience has shown that such declarations would only be in the interest of Israel propagandistically and detrimental to Arab parties. In addition, resuming negotiations later to implement these declarations—as happened with the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks—would mean the emergence of new differences over the interpretation of the clauses of these declarations and going back to square one.

Damascus thinks the negotiating process should be conducted with direct and full U.S. participation in all details and measures to reach final agreements regarding full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, as well as the security arrangements and what is wanted from each party, including the international parties.

AL-MAJD has also learned that Dennis Ross, the U.S. envoy, is bringing along with him an amended U.S. version that attempts to reconcile the new Israeli and Syrian proposals. Reliable sources said the amended version brought along by Ross includes U.S. guarantees for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan in a period shorter than that suggested by the Israelis.

At the same time, however, Ross will try to rush Damascus into responding to the new U.S. proposals on the pretext that the Rabin government and the Clinton administration need the Israeli-Syrian-Lebanese settlement card for elections next year.

Damascus, however, has told Washington in advance about its rejection of this offer, deeming it supportive for Israeli maneuvers that seek to circumvent the principle of withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Damascus thinks the U.S. and Israeli election card is not a pressing matter for Syria, because Syria is not in a hurry. This card is a source of pressure on Israel, which should make large concessions because it knows that the Middle East and the peace process need the Syrian role.

AL-MAJD has learned that the Syrian leadership will tell Ross—who will begin his visit to Damascus today, Monday [19 September]—the following:

1. A period of six months is adequate for Israel to withdraw from the Golan and to dismantle the Israeli settlements on it. Damascus thinks this matter is a purely logistical issue and will not accept Israel's view that it is a political issue linked to the mechanisms of political agreement.

2. Any progress on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track requires first crystallizing all the headlines and details of this track.

3. Syria rejects the Israeli formula of "peace first" as an alternative to the land-for-peace principle and adhering to the Madrid formula and foundations.

4. There will be no separation between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, withdrawal from the Golan, and the implementation of Resolution 425, which stipulates full Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Ross Arrives in Damascus

JN2009082194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0715 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process, arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

'Ranking' Official Cited on Peace With Israel

JN1709155094 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Sep 94 pp 16, 17

[Interview with unidentified "ranking" Syrian official by an unidentified correspondent from Amman; date and place not given—first five paragraphs AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI introduction]

[Text] Syria's position on negotiations with Israel is different from the positions of other Arab negotiating parties. Syria seems to be in no hurry; it is not heavily in

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debt, and it is confident that Israel will not launch a war against it to impose its will even if the negotiations on the Golan continue for another five years.

As a ranking Syrian official told AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, not a single inch of the Golan will be relinquished, and time will prove this. Why? The official replied: Because we are the strongest party in this fingernail-biting game with Israel.

In fact, the firmness of the Syrian position on the Golan is in direct contrast with the unusual confusion prevailing in the Israeli position, represented by the series of statements by ranking officials that sometimes speak about a readiness for partial withdrawal and sometimes about full withdrawal, or about linking withdrawal with normalization, or holding a popular referendum on substantial withdrawal from the occupied height, etc.

The Israeli haste to reach an agreement with Syria has also been noted. Israel wants the peace process to be crowned with the greatest achievement. Damascus has realized the importance of this haste, and accordingly, it has behaved calmly, with calculated steps so that the Western and Israeli media cannot claim that Syria does not want peace.

As the Syrian official told us: We are not in need of this narrow strip, which is 10 km long and 15 km wide, for economic reasons. We insist on spreading Syrian sovereignty over every inch for considerations of national prestige before anything else.

[Correspondent] What about strategic and security considerations?

[Official] This pretext is unacceptable to us. We are bored of the repetition of such phrases by the Israelis. We are eager to see the end of the Israeli presence on Mount Hermon and the Heights. As the Israelis say, this presence provides them with an effective deterrent factor and gives them time for preparation through the early-warning system if we decide to attack them. Nevertheless, we are not prepared to relinquish any part of our land so that the Israelis will feel secure. They can feel secure if confidence is established, and confidence cannot be established through distributing our lands to others. They think that restoring the Golan and all its strategic positions to us will, in the future, enable the Syrian Army to launch an easy offensive against Israel. They say they trust our intentions, but they cannot predict what will happen in the future. The changes the whole world is witnessing are the best evidence of this. You can guarantee the present and the near future, but you cannot guarantee the distant future.

[Correspondent] Two weeks ago, Rabin warned of possible war. He said that failure to achieve progress will push the two countries to the battlefield within five years. On 4 September, Rabin said that there was growing evidence that Syria wants to go ahead, as evidenced by the fact that it is not throwing obstacles in the way of Jordan and Palestinians.

[Official] On the same day, Shim'on Peres said that Israel is convinced that Syria has incorporated peace within its strategic planning, but it does not know how to follow peace tactics. Such statements reveal the extent of Israeli confusion. They cannot launch an aggression against us because this will mean the collapse of the entire peace process. As you know, the peace process is reluctantly accepted by most moderate Arabs. But the foes of the principle of peace are many and strong. Regarding our decision not to hinder other tracks, we do not handcuff anybody, despite our reservations about the way in which negotiations on those tracks have been conducted. We observe our limits and measure our stands with extreme accuracy. As for the tactics to which Peres has referred, they mean concessions—a word that does not exist in our dictionary.

[Correspondent] Former Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said last week that an agreement with Damascus is imminent. He hinted that you may accept the British mandate lines on the Golan.

[Official] An agreement may become imminent if Israel changes its stand. As for our stand, we have stressed to the Israeli side at every round of talks that we will accept nothing but full and final Israeli withdrawal to the pre-5 June 1967 lines. The mandate lines about which Sharon is talking would keep the Baniyas and al-Hammah areas in the hands of the Israelis. This is impossible. We are not ready to talk about trading territories or accepting partial withdrawals. Sharon's statements are a trial balloon and part of the state of confusion.

[Correspondent] But what about the "price?" Negotiations mean concessions. What are you ready to offer Israel in case of full withdrawal?

[Official] The entire area has entered a new age. We are fully aware of this. In general, he whose land is restored to him does not need to pay a price. But the new age we are entering necessitates that we get into new arrangements, for it is unreasonable that the state of war remains in effect after our territory is returned to us. Likewise, it is unreasonable for us to prepare our Army to attack Israel if the Golan Heights becomes Syrian again. What is reasonable is for the relations between us and our foe to move toward gradual normalization.

[Correspondent] But you reject normalization?

[Official] No, we do not reject normalization. We reject the way by which Israel links withdrawal to normalization. Therefore, we have proposed the principle of full withdrawal in return for comprehensive peace. This proves our good intentions.

[Correspondent] What about phased withdrawal in return for phased peace?

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[Official] This issue was raised for discussion, but it must eventually lead to full peace and full withdrawal. In other words, this proposal stems from what we have previously proposed. Do not forget that withdrawal, if it is to take place, will take place in stages, and peace, if it is to be achieved, will take place in stages.

[Correspondent] There are many reports about phases: Some reports say Israel wants to withdraw within five years and you want the withdrawal to take place within two years. We then hear Rabin saying that Israel agrees on withdrawal within three years.

[Official] Throughout the negotiations, Israel has stuck to a minimum of five years. We, however, rejected this strongly. We were ready for only two years at most. We are now hearing Rabin showing readiness for withdrawal within three years.

[Correspondent] But why are they talking about stages?

[Official] The stages have been rejected from the beginning because this means that something will be left in the hands of your rival who will only give it to you if he is satisfied with your performance. In other words, if Israel withdraws now from one half of the Golan and pledges to withdraw from the other half within two years, and if we pledge to make certain normalization steps, Israel's explanation of our steps might not be in harmony with the withdrawal timetable. The situation is like mortgaging your house to a bank until you pay all installments. Rabin said verbatim: Phased withdrawal is necessary to examine Syria's intentions regarding normalization before Israel completes its withdrawal.

[Correspondent] So far, Israel has not defined the size of the area from which it will withdraw, has it?

[Official] Israel says it will not define, in this stage of talks, the size of the area from which it will withdraw. However, we insist on an Israeli pledge, in advance, to withdraw from all the of Golan that it occupied in 1967 and annexed in 1981. Following this pledge, we will prove to the whole world that we are flexible. However, we will not concede the land even if the talks continued for another five years. We want a clear and binding withdrawal timetable, and then we will be ready.

[Correspondent] Some reports say that the settlement plan regarding the Golan is almost ready and that Rabin is ready to make more concessions than what is announced, but he fears the Likud and the voters.

[Official] Sometimes we hear statements attributed to him in which he appears to be very flexible, but the next day he says things that are different. My personal conviction is that Rabin is convinced of the need for full withdrawal, however, he is seeking a way out that will please the Israelis. In the Golan, there are 32 settlements, factories, and rich water resources. They are talking about dismantling settlements and closing factories. The long years of occupation have changed the topography of the land and complicated matters. Therefore, giving these things up has become difficult. We are aware of this, as well as the difficulties that have emerged. However, who asked them to build settlements and to go so far with their dreams? Sooner or later, they will be forced to dismantle almost every settlement, except the settlements whose inhabitants agree to live under Syrian sovereignty. Even in the West Bank and Gaza, there will be no settlements after several years. You cannot plant a few blackberry trees amid a forest of olive trees. Time and developments will remove them, and history will say that building settlements outside Israel was a grave mistake from the beginning. I am not saying that the agreement is almost ready, but I am saying that the moment Israel announces its readiness for a full withdrawal from the Golan in exchange for a full peace with us, everything will be ready for signing within one single week.

[Correspondent] Some say that what is going on between you and Israel is like fingernail biting and a contest of wills between the two largest neighboring regional powers in the Middle East. What is your comment on this?

[Official] Perhaps, there are some in Israel who view negotiations between the two sides as a head-breaking method. Of course, what is meant here is breaking Syria's head by imposing what Israel sees appropriate. We differ from the rest of the Arab negotiators because we are, in fact, the most powerful country after Egypt among those countries that surround Israel. This is also because we did not fall into the trap of foreign debts and because we are capable of leaving the Golan occupied for a longer period without having it shake the pillars of our state.

I would like to make it clear that we do not view the negotiating process as a method of breaking Israel's head. Israel has achieved a lot of political breakthroughs since Madrid. During the past three years, Israel achieved what it never dreamed of achieving. It has now been recognized by all its neighbors and the rest of the Arabs and the world. Moreover, it has now taken the position it has been seeking to achieve since its establishment in 1948. All that we want from Israel is to recognize our sovereignty over the Golan just as it was before the 1967 war. There is no head-breaking in this because it is our head that will be broken if we accept anything less.

[Correspondent] Are you willing to sign a non-aggression treaty with Israel in return for a full withdrawal?

[Official] Once a pledge for withdrawal is announced, everything becomes possible, including an end to the state of war.

[Correspondent] What about complete normalization?

[Official] Naturally. We are two neighboring countries. Hence, the opening of borders must lead to establishing various diplomatic, commercial, and other relations.

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However, everything has its own time. The state of hostility, which has continued for five decades, cannot be erased by a peace treaty. The treaty is a first step on a long road.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that you are willing to sign a separate peace treaty?

[Official] Talk about this issue has become meaningless after what has happened on the other tracks. Coordination stopped from the moment the Oslo agreement was signed. Jordan might sign its agreement with Israel before us. We are not happy about this, however, we will not place any obstacles in their way. Moreover, despite all this we are willing to meet with the rest of the Arab negotiators at a later stage to achieve the comprehensive peace that was the joint objective of the four negotiating Arab parties. All the negotiators are convinced of the importance of a comprehensive peace. However, every party had its own calculations, suspicions, and certain potentials that led to the collapse of coordination. In any case, this issue is over, and we now have to look into what can be done in the future.

[Correspondent] We read that Faruq Qaddumi, [chief of the PLO Political Department], submitted to Faruq al-Shar' a draft plan to torpedo the Oslo accord and that al- Shar' rejected it and reminded Qaddumi that he is still a member of the Palestinian self-rule authority. He also told him that he should resign now before he submits such plans.

[Official] No one told me about what happened between Qaddumi and al-Shar'. In any case, however, Syria is not concerned about torpedoing the Oslo accord, and if this accord has to be torpedoed, then the Palestinians should do so.

[Correspondent] But you have continued to provide a safe haven to the "10 factions" opposed to the agreement concluded between the Palestinian leadership and Israel. As a matter of fact, we have learned that certain leaders of these factions are attempting to make Syria their permanent residence.

[Official] The circumstances are fluid, and they do affect the conduct of the faction leaders. We have not asked them for anything. But they, of their own volition, have reduced the level of their political activities. They are politicians, and they understand that their activities are influenced by regional and international circumstances. With regard to the desire of some of them to reside in Syria, this is a different matter that has nothing to do with politics. Syria is open to all Arabs without exception.

[Correspondent] The internationally-renowned terrorist Carlos was reported to have lived in Syria for a long time. You had reportedly asked him to leave to spare yourselves any embarrassment in case his presence on your territory was known to anybody, particularly since you seek to have your country's name stricken off the list of the countries supporting terrorism.

[Official] I do not have any information on this issue. Just like you, I have read such reports in newspapers.

[Correspondent] It has also been reported that you and Iran are guiding Hizballah.

[Official] This is untrue. But we deem legal the anti-Israel activities carried out by the Lebanese resistance factions in the occupied parts of southern Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Will you make the signing of an agreement on the Golan contingent upon a pledge on Israel's part to withdraw from southern Lebanon?

[Official] We and Lebanon have pledged to work together to achieve a just peace. Our positions are coordinated. Withdrawal from southern Lebanon is as important to us as withdrawal from the Golan. Israel must pledge to comply with Resolution 425, which concerns southern Lebanon. In the same vein, Israel must also vow to implement Resolutions 242 and 338, which concern the remaining occupied Arab territories.

[Correspondent] An Israeli poll has concluded that one third of the Israeli public supports complete withdrawal from the Golan, and that another third is for partial withdrawal from the Golan. What do you have to say on this?

[Official] We are not interested in Israeli polls. What we know is that all Syrians demand complete withdrawal from the Golan.

Commentary Warns of Diminishing Peace Opportunity

JN1809135494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: It is clear that points of disagreement between Syria and Israel on the peace process are the same in spite of all the Israeli statements which aim to show that Israel is making concessions to remove the obstacles to peace.

When they speak about withdrawal from the Golan, Israeli officials do not mean full withdrawal from all Syrian lands occupied in the 1967 aggression. This means there is considerable disagreement between the Israeli position and the Syrian position, which is based on the resolutions of the international legitimacy, especially Resolutions 242 and 338.

When the Israelis speak about withdrawal in the Golan, they talk about concessions that should be reciprocated by the other party, that is Syria, so the peace process can move forward. This talk contains many discrepancies and clear paradoxes. The one who withdraws from land he occupied through force and aggression is not making a concession but is returning the right to it owner. In

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return, he will win peace, security, and stability. No logic or law in this world, throughout history, asks the victim of aggression to offer concessions that encroach on his sovereignty over his land and the rights approved by all international laws.

From the Israeli point of view, peace seems to be different from that known and sought by the world's peoples. According to the erroneous Israeli logic, peace is the situation that provides Israel with security, stability, and peace, and at the same allows it to keep the land, or some of the land, occupied by aggression.

Clearly, this Israeli position does not mean peace at all, but rather capitulation and relinquishment of rights and land by the Arabs. If this takes place, it will pave the way for new wars and continuous tension.

The aspired peace is based on the principles set by the international community and then approved in very clear resolutions. It is based on the land-for-peace principle. Peace is what realizes security for all equally. It is not keeping land that was occupied by force and aggression.

Syria has repeatedly clarified its position on this subject. It has been sincere in its efforts to achieve a peace that can continue and live. Syria has declared its readiness to meet the requirements of peace, but not any peace. It is a peace that begins with full and unconditional withdrawal from all the occupied Syrian lands, south Lebanon, and the western al-Biqa'.

Israel has not yet defined the final line of the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. It is trying to enforce an unjustified long-term schedule for this withdrawal. By this, Israel is not only putting sticks between the spokes of the wheel of the peace process, but it is also exposing the available peace opportunity to grave dangers. With the passage of time without a change in the Israeli position on the peace requisites, the opportunity to reach just and comprehensive peace in the region diminishes.

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Afghanistan

Kabul Fighting Continues; Iran Arranges Talks

LD1909174994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Fighting between the two warring sides in western and southwestern Kabul continues. A few groups of residents of western Kabul have left their homes to save themselves from starvation brought about as a result of the fighting in the area and are heading for central and northern Kabul.

Meanwhile, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Akbari, the head of the political committee of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, in an interview, called for a halt to all attacks on the residential areas of western Kabul. He announced his support for the mediation efforts in order to end the fighting in western Kabul.

Furthermore, in order to establish a cease-fire in western Kabul, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Afghanistan has contacted the officials of the warring sides and obtained the agreement of most of them to set up a meeting with their representatives. The timetable and ways to implement a cease-fire are to be discussed at the meeting.

Government Welcomes Tajik Cease-Fire Agreement

LD1909173794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan today welcomed the recent agreement reached between Tajik Government and its oppositions in Tehran and considered it as a positive step to end hostilities and ensure peace and security in that country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] based on its peace-seeking foreign policy and principles of good neighborliness has always been in favor of stability in the region. It welcomes warmly the recent agreement between Tajik authorities and its oppositions concerning a temporary cease-fire and considers it as good prelude for the political and peaceful solution of the internal issues of Tajikistan.

Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ISA hopes that in the light of the agreement, the third rounds of talks which will be held in Islamabad, should be concluded the issues successfully and thus one of painful regional conflict next to our country should be solved comprehensively.

The side of the ISA based on its constructive stance in this regard, taking this opportunity is emphasizing on its full readiness to express any assistance towards acceleration of the process of peace and stability in our neighboring country, the Republic of Tajikistan.

21 Dostam Militia Troops Defect to Konduz Mojahedin

LD1809181094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] A commander of Dostam's militias, along with 20 of his men joined the Konduz Province Mojahedin today.

A security source reports to Bakhtar Information Agency: A commander of Dostam's militias who refused to be named, joined the Mojahedin of Konduz Province along with 20 of his men in the area of Erganak Pass.

The men who joined the Mojahedin handed over a mortar, a PK-1 machine gun, and eight Kalashnikovs.

The commander who joined the state pledged to fight alongside the Mojahedin against the infamous militias.

According to another report from Erganak Pass, as a result of the destruction of a jeep belonging to the militias, a commander of Dostam's militias and all the passengers on board were killed.

Government General Assassinated in Jowzjan Province

LD1609181994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Amrollah Khan, general-commander of the Wahdat's fronts in Sang-e Charak district, Jowzjan province, and a well-known Jehadi personality of this province, has recently been martyred by a treacherous conspiracy hatched by the enemies of Islam.

Condolence ceremony for this honorable martyr will be held 1300-1530 tomorrow by the officials of Jowzjan province's office in Kabul, in Abomuslim-e Khorasani mosque, located in section 2 of Khairkhan.

Cabinet Hears Report on Ministers' Visits

LD1809183694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The high session of ministers held this morning was chaired by esteemed Mawlawi Arslan Rahmani, the deputy prime minister.

The prime minister's press office reports to BAKHTAR Information Agency: In the session, first, esteemed Mawlawi Arslan Rahmani addressed the members of the cabinet about the political-military situation in the country. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'e, minister of state for foreign affairs, presented a comprehensive report to the cabinet on the participation of Afghanistan's delegation in the conference of the foreign ministers members of the Islamic Conference Organization, held in Islamabad.

Also, esteemed Mohammad Sadiq Chakari, acting minister of tribal affairs, briefed the session about his visit to

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Libya and his participation in the 25th anniversary of the revolution of the Republic of Libya.

In addition to taking part in that anniversary, Esteemed Chakari met with Mr. Mua'mmar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Arab Republic, in order to explain the stance of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. He has also met other government officials of the Arab Republic of Libya and representatives of the countries that took part in the anniversary.

India

Reactions To New Pharmaceutical Policy Reported

New Policy Said To Ensure Price

BK1809124394 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] The minister of chemicals and fertilizers, Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, announced the modified drug policy on Thursday [September 15]. Industrial licensing for all bulk drugs and their formulations except five reserved exclusively for the public sector has been abolished. The number of drugs under price control have been reduced from the existing 142 to 73. Drugs with a turnover of over four crore rupees will now be brought under price control and an R and D [Research and Development] cess [surcharge] of one percent of sales have been levied on pharma units.

[Begin recording] [Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav] We have tried our best to ensure that the price would be maintained and the drugs would be available for the common people.

[Anand Thakor, Indian Drug Manufacturers Association president; identified by screen caption] It's a compromise policy. A two step forward, a step backward. And at the same time, I have a faith. We know that government has taken a very cautious approach. [end recording]

Industry Said Disappointed

BK1909131894 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Sep 94 p 16

[Text] Bombay—The long-awaited drug policy, unveiled by the Government on Thursday after dilly-dallying for over two years, is unlikely to provide any big relief to the Rs [rupees] 7,000 crore pharmaceutical industry which has been reeling under controls.

Even though the Government has announced several measures like delicensing and removal of controls on more drugs, the policy as a whole is "half-hearted" and a "small step" in the liberalisation process, a cross-section of industry spokesman said. While multinational drug companies say this is not different from the existing policy, Indian companies feel the policy is loaded heavily in favour of multinationals.

"It is a big disappointment," said Mr D. Bose, managing director of Burroughs Wellcome. It's true that foreign companies have been allowed to raise equity to 51 per cent without seeking government approval. "But this will have to be at the market price... it's not a cheap exercise," Bose said.

Dr. A.S. Mehta, president of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)—the body which represent multinationals in India—said that the modifications effected are a step in the right direction towards a market economy and globalisation. He felt that the changes are in consonance with the industrial policy and the current Exim policy.

While the industry appreciated the reduction in the span of price control and the time limit for price approvals, Mr. Mehta said "there is a need to have total transparency in the implementation of the proposed drug prices control order."

According to the director of an Indian drug company, "the policy measures are loaded heavily in favour of the multinationals. Unable to face competition, several small scale drug companies will have to shut down... but quality is bound to go up." Under the new policy, the Government has promised faster clearance of price revision applications for controlled drugs. "This also should help multinationals, whose price revision applications have been kept on hold," said an industry source.

The modifications effected in the Drug Policy 1986, is "a cautious compromise policy," said Mr. Anant Thakore, president of the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (the body which represents Indian companies). Expressing his dissatisfaction at the 50 per cent span of controls still prevalent in the list of controlled drugs, he says that with these prevailing controls India will not be able to become part of the global market.

He also feels that the overall profitability of 9-13 per cent will not be achieved and in turn adequate expenditure on research and development will not be possible. His disappointment stemmed further from the Small Scale Industries being kept under price control which he felt would make it necessary for them to follow leader price. In fact, the one per cent cess [surcharge] to run R&D came as a surprise for the industry.

However, Thakore expressed his satisfaction over the formation of the National Drug Authority to monitor quality control and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority to fix prices.

Said Mr. V. Shankar, director, Croslands Research Laboratories "multinationals will take more interest in the Indian market. They will increase their presence in India." The Government should have removed more drugs from the purview of price control and should have accorded more incentives to quality control and boost small scale industries Mr Vijay Kalantri, president, All-India Association of Industries (AIAI).

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Iran

Tajik Officials in Tehran for Peace Talks

Met by President

LD1909192994 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] At a meeting today with Mr. Dostiyev, the Tajik vice president [name and title as received], and Mr. Turajanzadah, the deputy leader of the Islamic Rebirth Party of that country, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed gladness about the agreements reached at the Tehran session. He expressed the hope that the UN and countries supervising the cease-fire would prevent the repetition of such incidents in that country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then recounted, as part of the Islamic Republic of Iran's actions, the project for the Sarakhs-Tajikistan railway connection line, the setting up of an air route, and the exchange of high-ranking delegations between the two countries to achieve ways of expanding cooperation. He stressed: Iran is ready to help the people of Tajikistan, economically, politically, and culturally, within the bounds of its means.

According to a Central News Unit report, the Tajik vice president and the deputy leader of that country's Islamic Rebirth Party thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its humanitarian efforts to bring about understanding between the delegations of the two sides, and submitted reports to the president on the results of the Tehran session.

Tajik Vice President Meets Speaker

LD1909200194 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in English 1815 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Mr. Dostiyev, the visiting Tajik vice president, met with Mr. Nateq-Nuri, Iran's parliament speaker, today. At the meeting, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said that Iran enjoys common cultural, religious, and historical ties with its neighbors, specially with the newly independent states of Central Asia, but Tajikistan enjoys a special place due to speaking the same language as Iran.

Expressing satisfaction over the cease-fire agreement reached in Tehran, the Iranian parliament speaker expressed hope that peace and tranquillity be restored to Tajikistan through the enforcement of the truce. He also declared Iran's readiness to help in Tajikistan's reconstruction.

Expressing deep regret over the situation in Tajikistan, Mr. Dostiyev expressed hope that the two sides observe the terms of the recent cease-fire so that peace and tranquillity be restored in that country.

Velayati on Cease-Fire

LD1909185094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Today President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Tajik Vice President Dostiyev, and Mr. Turajanzadah, deputy leader of the Tajik Islamic Rebirth Party, the signatories at the Tehran session of the temporary cease-fire agreement in that country. [passage omitted]

At the meeting, Foreign Minister Velayati referred to the trust and confidence the representatives of the Tajik factions taking part in the talks at the Tehran session have in Iran and recounted our country's efforts to bring about understanding between the representatives of the two sides. He added: Under the Tehran agreement, which has been signed under the auspices of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the UN envoy, and the Russian deputy foreign minister, the two sides are to implement the temporary cease-fire agreement after UN observers are stationed in Tajikistan.

UN Urged To Dispatch Observers

LD2009074994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Following the agreement signed in Tehran between the government of Tajikistan and its opponents to establish a temporary cease-fire, a spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry has asked that the United Nations speed up the dispatch of cease-fire observers to Tajikistan.

He stressed: In accordance with articles in the Tehran agreement, the cease-fire will be implemented after the deployment of UN observers in Tajikistan. It is therefore necessary for the United Nations to speedily send its observers to Tajikistan.

Role in Crisis Considered

NC1909130294 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Sep 94 p 12

[Editorial: "The Tehran Talks"]

[Text] Following the arrival of the UN emissary Piriz-Ballon in Tehran, unofficial and intensive discussions among the Tajikistan Government representatives and the Russian delegates and the Tajik opposition members with the mediation of the Islamic Republic of Iran began in Tehran.

The conditions of the opponents of the government and the representatives of the Tajikistan Government have been presented to the UN emissary for an assessment before the formal inauguration of the Tehran talks. Ever since Tajikistan declared its independence three years ago from the former Soviet Union, the power struggle to assume control over the country's affairs continues.

Right from the outset, Tajikistan's independence did not entail any fundamental changes in the political structure and the former figures continued to control the centers of power without any change in policies. Tajikistan's distinctive sensitivity motivated the greater powers in the region and the world including Russia and the United

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States to display a sensitive concern toward the aforementioned issues in such a way that Moscow's official policy was to support those trends that had organizational links with the former system and which favored Moscow's policies in order to retain their positions.

The United States also gave priority to similar tactics and strategies in its foreign policy. This was due to the following two factors:

1. The effective and decisive presence of the Persian language and civilization, which provides appropriate scope for the consolidation of relations between Iran and Tajikistan from the historical and cultural point of view.

2. The dynamism and vigor of the trend of Islamism in that country, which serves to reinforce the first factor.

It was due to such interference that the natural trend of a change of power in Tajikistan was disrupted in most of the republics of the former Soviet Union and the resistance to the will of the people and the majority who wanted changes in the power structure in the country through general elections heightened and this precipitated the bloody wars that have been raging for the past three years. The Tajikistan Government strove by all possible means to prevent an Islamic and popular trend from taking shape.

The strength of the popular opposition trends that have emerged in the form of two Islamic groups and some peripheral groups are basically the important factors in the failure of the government to attain its objectives. The Muslim groups are endowed with popular backing and extensive and active organizational facilities. The nationalistic groups are composed of political-national individuals and groups with a laicist policy but who are opposed to the current regime. This has resulted in a coalition of the opposition groups against the government which is basically seeking to preserve the sociopolitical and economic structure of the past and continue its existence within the framework of the general policies that are vestiges of the former empire.

The Russian support for the Tajikistan Government has resulted in continued tension and civil strife. The opposition, which has suffered numerous vicissitudes in its struggle against the central government, has been able to attain a suitable position and now the Government of Tajikistan and countries such as Russia and the United Nations have reached the conclusion that it is not possible to ignore the wishes and demands of the opposition.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is pursuing its principled policy of providing the majority of the people in Tajikistan an opportunity to decide their own destiny and has created conditions for the convocation of multilateral talks in Tehran. Russia has welcomed these efforts on the part of Iran and the desire of the United Nations to terminate civil strife in Tajikistan, which resulted in the present sessions in Tehran.

This can be construed as a political success for Iran. However, it appears that the main framework of the UN emissary's agenda and the Russian Government is to convince the opposition members to participate in general elections and to declare a cease-fire without providing any guarantees for correct and free elections that would respect the wishes of the people.

The main conditions of the opponents of the regime are the unconditional release of all political prisoners, the creation of appropriate conditions for free elections, the participation of all the religious and political parties with the supervision of neutral forces and countries, prior to which there should be a cease-fire and the central government should agree to a cessation of military operations.

In his talks with the members of the opposition and in the multipartite talks with the Russian and Iranian representatives, the UN emissary prepared a report that he will present to UN officials. It appears that this will facilitate the continuation of direct dialogue between the government and the opposition in some form, even though the political circles and experts are rather pessimistic about these differences being resolved completely.

This is because there is an immense disparity between the viewpoints and demands of the two sides when perceived against their backdrop of the objectives and policies in the past. The Tajikistan crisis is one of the most tragic phenomena that have occurred in the former Soviet Union in the past few years. In these unfortunate events, thousands of Muslim men and women have been killed and hundreds of thousands have become homeless.

The catastrophic and merciless atrocities perpetrated by the communists have spawned a general hatred in the minds of the people and national resources have been destroyed. There is no doubt that some of these events can be attributed to the irresponsible intervention of the major powers. There is no doubt that the obligation of the neighboring and regional countries, especially of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is to move toward terminating these unfortunate incidents, and the Tehran talks would be considered a step in this direction, even though the current realities and the inability of the central government to crush the opposition has resulted in it leaning toward a quest for a nonmilitary solution.

U.S. Chided for Questioning IAEA Report

NC1909200794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Station political commentary]

[Text] John Holm, head of the U.S. Committee on Armaments and Arms Control [name and title as heard], claims that he does not acknowledge the credibility of the investigations conducted by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on Iran's nuclear programs.

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Commenting on this, a spokesman for the Atomic Energy Agency in Iran has told IRNA that U.S. officials' irresponsible stands toward the Islamic Republic of Iran and U.S. questioning of the credibility of the IAEA's activity reveal the United States' expansionist tendency and seek to weaken the IAEA. The spokesman pointed out that Washington wants to undermine the credibility of the IAEA and place the agency's security and control department under the Security Council's influence, which would enable the United States to use it to pressure countries opposed to its policies.

The indisputable fact is that the IAEA is a purely technical organization affiliated with the United Nations. It is natural for the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate and coordinate with the IAEA's procedures and activities. The contents of the IAEA team's report following its visit to Iran confirm Iran's interest in cooperating with the IAEA. The question that comes to mind is: On what basis does the United States question the accuracy of these reports, which emphasize the non-existence of any projects in Iran to produce nuclear weapons? The fact is that world public opinion knows very well that the United States always seeks to take advantage of the concern it proclaims regarding the proliferation of nuclear weapons to serve its expansionist policies and put pressure on countries opposing it, as it did with North Korea. However, the United States blatantly supported and continues to support Israel's nuclear armament programs in the Middle East. It is in light of this that the United States criticizes the measures of the IAEA, which thus far has been acting independently of U.S. policy goals.

At any rate, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is an indisputable right of all countries active in this field in accordance with the necessary international specifications. Accordingly, Iran will continue its program in cooperation with other countries and in accordance with the IAEA's requirements.

Envoy Elected IAEA Vice Chairman

LD1909191994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] At the general assembly session of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the head of Iran's Atomic Agency Organization was elected vice chairman of the session by a majority vote.

Shooting in Beijing, Diplomat's Death Reported

LD2009103394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] As we reported earlier, an Iranian diplomat and his son were killed in Beijing early this morning by shots from an armed man. A few minutes ago, deputy foreign minister for Asian-Pacific affairs, Ala'eddin Borujerdi, explained this morning's incident.

[Begin Borujerdi recording] In a very tragic incident in Beijing this morning, our embassy's deputy in charge of consular affairs, His Excellency Yusef Mohammadi, and his son, were both martyred. He was taking his son to school. I offer condolences to the family of our colleague. We have taken a number of immediate measures. The Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy has been in contact with Chinese officials. In Tehran, the Chinese charge d'affaires has twice been invited to the Foreign Ministry, when the Islamic Republic of Iran's concern and protest was conveyed to him. Also, it was requested that the Chinese Government punish the perpetrators [as heard] of the incident as severely and as quickly as possible. A delegation will soon be dispatched to follow up the case. We are sure that the government of China, considering its very satisfactory relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, will investigate the case very soon and severely and speedily punish the perpetrators of the incident. [end recording]

Velayati, Spanish Diplomat Discuss Ties

LD1909105494 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—The visiting Spanish Foreign Ministry director general for Middle East and African affairs Miguel Angel Moratinos here today in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati conveyed a friendly message from the Spanish foreign minister to his Iranian counterpart.

Moratinos also expressed that the Spanish foreign minister was interested to pay a visit to Iran.

Tehran-Madrid bilateral relations, relations between Iran and the European Union and the latest developments in the region and the world were among the topics discussed between Velayati and Moratinos.

Moratinos praised the Iranian important role in the Persian Gulf region, the Central Asian republics and the Caucasus and emphasized on the importance of cooperation between the European Union and the regional countries.

He commended Iran for its role in the establishing of a ceasefire between the fighting groups in Tajikistan and the Iranian efforts in establishing stability and security in the region, calling Iran's role as "positive" and important for the international community.

Velayati referred to the relations between Iran and Spain as "friendly" and on the basis of mutual interest and called for dispatching of high ranking delegations between the two countries in order to expand Tehran-Madrid relations.

Yazdi: Egypt Should Observe Islamic Dress Code

LD1909171794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpt] At today's session of judicial officials, regarding the Egyptian Education Ministry's opposition

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to observing the Islamic dress code in its schools, the head of Iran's judiciary said: Such actions are contrary to the shining precepts of the Koran and the honor of Muslims, and it is nothing more than following the orders of foreigners and the enemies of Islam against the people of an Islamic country.

While warning the Egyptian Government against resorting to such actions, Mr. Yazdi added: It is necessary for the Egyptian Government to learn a lesson from the history of their country and the wrath of God-seeking Muslims. [passage omitted]

Need for Foreign Ministry Clarification Seen

NC1809135494 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Sep 94 p 2

[Commentary by A. Borhan: "The Silent Spokesman"]

[Text] Last week one of Tehran's morning newspapers carried a commentary by our esteemed ambassador in Germany. It addressed our foreign ministry and wished to know "if such allegations are endorsed by the Foreign Affairs Ministry or not."

According to that commentary, the Iranian ambassador in Germany had said in an interview with the German newspaper "EXPRESS": "Tehran has never been opposed to peace in the Middle East or to the Jews. We only want the Palestinians to emigrate to their own territories from which they were driven out and to live there. These territories are Israel. All the religious groups should have the same rights. In addition, free and democratic elections should also be held in that region. It is obvious that the Palestinian nation should decide their own future destiny, and we do not wish to be more Palestinian than the Palestinians. Despite this, we wish to be allowed to declare our viewpoint with regard to a permanent peace."

With the lapse of a few days since this was published, the Foreign Ministry has not yet responded to the newspaper commentary, and this has heightened the ambiguity regarding the intentions of the ambassador in declaring such stances.

At a time when the great leader is categorically pursuing the line of Imam Khomeyni, and who said "Israel should be eliminated," the irresponsible remarks of his excellency, the ambassador can only be a source of pleasure for the Zionists ruling over the occupied territories. If he believes that any leniency before the enemy will pave the way for the withdrawal of the accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the unjust international system, he is seriously mistaken.

This error is either due to "immaturity" or not being able to recognize the international system or possibly both. In order to help him understand this better, we invite him to peruse the dossiers in the drawers of his desk, especially the one pertaining to Szimkus.

Of course, this is not the first time that his excellency the ambassador has voiced his opinions with regard to the country's foreign policy and overstepped his area of jurisdiction. We hope that the Foreign Ministry imposes limits on such remarks which in the least do not conform with the declared position of our country. If in a simplistic manner, it is expected that such conduct will deceive the international community, one should realize that the negative effects in the eyes of the worlds' Muslims will be greater than the effects of such compliance before the directors of the tyrannical international system.

For the information of Mr. Ambassador, the remark that "we are not more Palestinian than the Palestinians," which seems to have deliberately and inadvertently rolled off the tongue of the ambassador of one of the most revolutionary countries in the world, is a well-known utterance of one of the compromising, deposed Arab leaders.

In principle, the emulation of a country which is in a throes of a legitimacy crisis is not befitting for the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its ambassador.

What boosts the importance of such allegations is the silence of our Foreign Ministry regarding the developments that have taken place in the Middle East in the recent months and weeks. A month after the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the Jordanian monarchy and the Zionist regime, our Foreign Ministry has not shown any reaction. This silence, which is swathed in ambiguity, was again evident last week when full diplomatic relations were forged between Morocco and Israel, and their respective diplomatic offices were inaugurated in Tel Aviv and Rabat.

The silence of the spokesman of our Foreign Ministry regarding these important political developments—when last week, the great leader once again clearly stated the categorical position of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding Israel—cannot be an indication of the true foreign policy of our country. This raises the question in the minds of the Muslims of the world and of Iran: "Are there not eyes that see and ears that hear the position of the great leader in the Foreign Ministry?" Are the remarks by the esteemed ambassador and the silence of the Foreign Ministry spokesman two sides of one coin, and are the silence and these remarks deliberate?

Foreign 'Opportunists' Influence Warned Against

LD1909104894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0950 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Fighting has intensified between rival Afghan forces in west and southwest Kabul, and people there are reported to be living in grave conditions. According to

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reports, all roads to west Kabul closed with the start of the fighting, and residents of west Kabul are totally surrounded and under fire.

While it was hoped that the recent political efforts would lead to an end to the nine-month-war between the main rival groups, unfortunately the overflow of fighting to neutral groups in the past few days could have grave consequences for the Muslim people of Afghanistan, particularly Kabul residents.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which for the past 16 years has tried to lighten the burden of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, and which—despite international pressure—has hosted over 3 million Afghan refugees, is now seriously pursuing a suitable course for ending the Kabul fighting.

In this regard, contacts are underway between the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and representatives of rival Afghan groups in order to end this costly war. At these meetings, and as before, the Islamic Republic of Iran announced it preparation to end the complex Afghan crisis, and called on the rival forces to understand the sensitive situation faced by Kabul residents and to end the fratricide and solve the differences through negotiations.

Political observers believe that should the political and military groups fail to prepare the immediate grounds toward containment of the current crisis, opportunists will use excuses such as support for human rights and establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan to impose conditions from the outside.

This would be the beginning of a repeated tragedy for a Muslim people who have for years witnessed foreign intervention and occupation of their country.

Rebel Radio Reports Demonstrations in Tabriz

NC2009061894 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] On the basis of a report received by the Voice of Iranian Kordestan from Tabriz, capital of West Azerbaijan Province, on 8 September the city was the scene of demonstrations and marches against the clerical regime for the second time in the past month. According to the report, the demonstrations started when people saw several vehicles moving toward Turkey with exports of [word indistinct] and other foodstuffs. Seeing that at a time when our own country is facing a shortage of the same foodstuffs—hence the astronomic prices at which they are sold in the Iranian market—the regime intends to export to Turkey, the people took to the streets and started shouting slogans against the anti-human clerical regime.

After chanting slogans for a while, the people, who are fed up with the regime's oppression and tyranny, attacked and set fire to several vehicles in the city streets. The regime forces, which have always confronted our defenseless and toiling people and have crushed them with the threat of arms, once again acted against the people and shot at them. As a result, several people were killed or wounded by the regime's hirelings. Nevertheless, the people, who are disgusted with the regime's policies, continued their demonstrations and slogans against the regime and its policies.

Nonoil Export Figures for 1994 Announced

LD1909170194 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Since the beginning of this year $1.6 billion in nonoil goods have been exported, announced the head of the Center for the Expansion of Exports of Iran. He added: That figure shows a 23 percent increase over the same period last year. He also said: In the second Economic Development Plan $24 billion in nonoil goods will be exported.

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